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Volume 2, No. 154 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2004

U.S. vows rebel areas will fall one way or another

Rumsfeld says methods used in Fallujah depend on response of militants

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Memorial in the water



Navy names ships in honor of 9/11 victims

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Brian Ramsaur, 8, center, and his father and sister, John Ramsaur and Ann Ramsaur, 10, look at a model of one of the Navy's newest ships, the USS Arlington, named to honor those who died in the Pentagon following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and those who responded to the scene to help rescue and treat survivors. Brian's mother, Deborah Ramsaur, who worked in the Pentagon as a civilian secretary with the Department of the Army, was killed in the attack.

SANDRA JONTZ/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Milosevic war crimes: Judges at the U.N. war crimes tribunal Friday granted Slobodan Milosevic's court-appointed defense lawyers permission to ask an appeals court to remove them from the case and allow the former Yugoslav president to represent himself again.

Milosevic has refused to cooperate or even speak to the lawyers assigned last week to defend him, demanding that he be returned his right to defend himself.

The three-judge panel agreed to the motion Friday, saying their decision to remove the lawyers over Milosevic's objections "affects fundamentally the conduct of the case," and should be decided by an appellate tribunal immediately rather than at the end of the trial.

The ruling came after several defense witnesses refused to testify in protest against Milosevic's removal as his own defense counsel.

Pakistani terror raid: Pakistani troops assaulted a suspected terror hideout, killing at least six militants, including foreigners, hours after a military airstrike against an alleged al-Qaida training facility killed more than 50 fighters, the army said Friday.

The raid Thursday afternoon targeted a hideout at Kani Guram, a village in South Waziristan, army spokesman Gen. Shahtak Sultan said. Five of the six dead were foreigners, he said. Five other foreigners were captured trying to flee, Sultan said.

He did not reveal their identities or nationalities, saying the men still were being interrogated. Troops also seized several computers and dozens of CDs.

North and South Waziristan are considered a possible hideout for al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden and his No. 2 man, Ayman al-Zawahiri, though there has been no hard evidence of their whereabouts.

Oil tanker cleanup: Recovery crews have removed almost 13,000 tons of oil from a tanker ship 2.5 miles beneath the waves, Spain's government said Friday.

The tanker Prestige split in two during a storm off the Galicia region and sank on Nov. 1, 2002, disgorging most of its 20 million gallons of thick, toxic fuel oil onto the beaches of northern Spain and southwestern France. It was Spain's worst environmental disaster and the eighth largest spill on record.

About 3.7 million gallons remained inside the two pieces of the ship, almost all of it in the bow. Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said Friday virtually all this had been recovered. The extraction began in June of this year.

Holes were drilled in the ship, allowing the oil to float out into 98-foot-long bags that were brought up near the surface, loaded onto boats and taken to a refinery by land.

Jailed Russian oil tycoon: Jailed tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, believed to be Russia's richest man, says he doesn't have enough money to bail out the Yukos oil company from its back-tax troubles.

Khodorkovsky, who was Yukos chairman until jailed last October on charges of fraud and forgery, still owns a substantial share of stock in the country's largest oil producer and has said he is willing to hand over his shares to help Yukos avoid collapse.

The company faces a \$3.4 billion bill for 2000 bank taxes that Yukos says could drive it into bankruptcy, and other crushing tax claims are in the works.

Khodorkovsky made no public comment about Khodorkovsky's offer to give up

Khodorkovsky



Separated twins recovering: Arlene Aguirre, left, holds her son, Clarence, as Evelyn Aguirre, the boys' grandmother, manages Carl at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in New York on Thursday. The two year-old twins, who were joined at the head a month ago, returned to the hospital for a routine scan to check on the wound from the operation that separated them and to look for any signs of brain swelling or scar tissue. The brothers continue their strong recovery.

his shares, and the tycoon rejects officials' suggestions that he has enough cash to pay the bill himself.

France terrorism plot: Prosecutors requested Friday that six terrorist suspects be brought to trial for their alleged role in a foiled 2001 plot to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Paris, judicial officials said.

The decision on whether to prosecute the six rests with investigating magistrates Jean-Louis Bruguiere and Jean-Francois Ricard, France's top anti-terrorist judges, the officials said on condition of anonymity. Among the six is French-Algerian Djamel Beghal, an alleged ringleader, who was arrested in July 2001 in the United Arab Emirates and turned over to French custody.

While still in Dubai, Beghal told authorities the plot was ordered by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network, the officials said. He identified a Tunisian accomplice, Nizar Trabelsi, who was to enter the embassy wearing a bomb belt. He told authorities that other American interests also were targeted, the officials said.

Anglicans on gays: A commission seeking to resolve the Anglican Communion's crisis over a homosexual U.S. bishop and other gay issues wrapped up its work Friday and said it would publish its report on Oct. 18.

The commission, chaired by Irish prime minister Robin Eames, issued a brief statement as it ended a weeklong meeting at Windsor Castle, west of London. Before the meeting, Eames said the panel would probably "recommend radical changes in the ways Anglicanism relates to its different constituencies," but his statement gave no further clues about the recommendations.

The commission is dealing with a deep split among and within Anglican national churches caused by the election of V. Gene Robinson, who has a male partner, as bishop of New Hampshire, and by the decision of the western Canadian diocese of New Westminster to bless gay relationships.

War on terrorism

Iraq's president in Rome: Iraq's interim president met with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi on Friday as a previously unknown group claimed responsibility for kidnapping two Italian female aid workers in Baghdad.

President Ghazi al-Yawer, who is on a European tour, held two-hour talks with Berlusconi at the premier's office.

The group called itself "Supporters of

al-Zawahiri" posted a Web statement on Friday claiming to have kidnapped the two Italian workers. The name refers to Ayman al-Zawahiri, the deputy of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

The statement accused the Italian government of helping U.S. soldiers abuse Iraqi prisoners and gave Italy 24 hours to pledge to release all Muslim women held in Iraqi prisons if it wants to know more about the condition of the abducted aid workers. The statement did not say when the 24-hour period would end.

Aid workers Simona Torretta and Simona Pari, along with two girls, were seized from their offices in Baghdad by armed militants on Tuesday.

States

Overtime rules: A House vote to overturn new Bush administration rules on which workers qualify for overtime pay was hailed by Democrats trying to convince undecided voters they are the party that better protects worker rights.

The House voted 223-193 Thursday to stop the Labor Department from carrying out the new rules. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called it a "rare victory for middle-class Americans."

"President Bush's overtime regulations will affect 6 million workers," with some losing 25 percent of their incomes, Pelosi said.

Those figures were strongly disputed by the White House and the Labor Department, which said the biggest overhaul of overtime rules in more than 50 years would add more than 1 million mostly lower-paid workers to those eligible for overtime. The new regulations went into effect on Aug. 23.

Richmond flooding probe: The Senate approved Sen. George Allen's amendment Thursday to investigate the drainage field of Shockoe Bottom, a once-thriving Richmond, Va., business, entertainment and restaurant district devastated by flooding last week.

Allen, R-Va., called for a probe Monday after touring ruined offices, cafes and shops in one of downtown Richmond's most historic areas.

"This is a logical approach to assess the situation and plan for the future to prevent such damage and costly repair. A proper assessment and action plan will provide entrepreneurs with confidence to continue investing in historic Shockoe Bottom," Allen said.

The amendment was added a bill to provide appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security, which is expected to win final House action next week.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

U.S. hits Fallujah for fourth day

By Robert H. Reid

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A U.S. jet fired missiles Friday in the Sunni insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, the fourth day of attacks targeting the city where U.S. and Iraqi troops have no control, officials said.

One man was killed in the attack, Dr. Ahmed Thamer of the Fallujah General Hospital said. The attack followed airstrikes Thursday that reportedly killed nine people in Fallujah and dozens more in the northern town of Tal Afar, also one of the cities that has fallen under insurgent control and become a "no-go" zone for U.S. troops.

A leading Shiite Muslim cleric, Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, criticized the use of heavy U.S. force in Tal Afar, saying the Americans caused "catastrophes" that could have been avoided if Iraqis had been in charge of security. The Americans have said they were fighting "a large terrorist organization."

"Since the first day after [Saddam Hussein's] regime collapsed, Tal Afar had terrorist groups, and this is not new," al-Hakim told The Associated Press on Friday. "The new thing is that the military operations are huge."

Al-Hakim is the leader of the biggest Shiite political party in Iraq and is close to Iraq's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

Turkey on Friday called on the United States to quickly end military operations in Tal Afar, saying the attacks have caused casualties of mostly ethnic Turks living there.

Namik Tan, the foreign ministry spokesman, said Turkey has asked U.S. officials "not to harm the civilian population and avoid using excessive and non-selective force," the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Late Thursday, the regional government's television station reported U.S. and Iraqi government forces had agreed to allow medical teams to enter Tal Afar to care for people wounded from the airstrikes there, but that military op-

erations would continue "until the city is liberated from outsiders and saboteurs so that peace can be restored."

In Najaf, about 1,000 protesters marched through the old quarter Friday to demand that Muqtada al-Sadr and his aides leave the city, which has been ravaged by fighting between the radical cleric's followers and U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Chanting "Muqtada, the trash, is a leader of looters," the demonstrators walked past buildings hit by three weeks of fighting and insisted that al-Sadr's office be shut down. Iraqi soldiers kept the protesters from marching to al-Sadr's office.

They also demanded that the Iraqi government investigate the practices of a religious court that al-Sadr's office operated and punish those in charge of it.

The court, which worked separately from Iraq's legal system, ordered arrests and handed out punishments. It stopped functioning after al-Sadr's followers relinquished the control they had in areas here as part of a peace agreement to end the violence.

Sheikh Ali Smeisani, an aide to al-Sadr, said the demonstration was an attempt to create tension.

"We were expecting such things," he said. "Whenever there is a chaotic political situation, some people hold protests to escalate the situation."

Meanwhile, the airstrike in Fallujah on Friday came during a week in which nearly 20 American troops were killed — pushing the U.S. military death toll in the Iraq campaign above 1,000 — and al-Qaida claimed U.S. forces neared defeat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The Americans in both countries are between two fires. If they continue they bleed to death and if they withdraw they lose everything," Ayman al-Zawahiri, Osama bin-Laden's top deputy, said on a videotape broadcast Thursday by al-Jazeera.

U.S. and Iraqi authorities lost control of Fallujah after U.S. Marines ended a three-week siege last April and turned the city over



A Shiite supporter of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr holds a photograph of Sheikh Bashtir al-Azzazi, a deputy of al-Sadr, as he shouts slogans against U.S. and Ayad Allawi's government in Baghdad.

to a U.S.-sanctioned force, the Fallujah Brigade, which has now all but disappeared.

Restoring government control to major cities is essential if the country is to hold national elections by the end of January. Contacts are under way between Fallujah representatives and the interim government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi to restore some control over the city. The Fallujah residents want the U.S. attacks to

stop and the Americans to pay compensation to people killed in attacks. Allawi wants city officials to hand over al-Qaida tied terrorists that he and the Americans say are in Fallujah.

Using a different strategy, American and Iraqi forces entered the central city of Samarra for the first time in months under an agreement with local leaders to restore central government control peacefully.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, Sept. 9, 1,005 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 759 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 867 U.S. military members have died — 650 as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One soldier died Wednesday in a vehicle accident near Baqubah, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army 1st Lt. Timothy E. Price, 25, Midlothian, Va.; died Tuesday when he came under small arms attack in Baghdad; assigned to the Army's 127th Military Police Company, 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, V Corps, Hanoi, Germany.

■ Army Spc. Chad H. Drake, 23, Garland, Texas; died Tuesday in Baghdad, when his patrol vehicle came under attack; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Spc. Charles R. Lamb, 23, Casey, Ill.; died Sunday in Baghdad, in a mortar attack; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1544th Transportation Company, Paris, Ill.

■ Army Sgt. Shawna M. Morrison, 26, Champaign, Ill.; died Sunday in Baghdad in a mortar attack; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1544th Transportation Company, Paris, Ill.

Rumsfeld vows Iraq insurgency will be quashed

By Patrick Dickson

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told journalists at the National Press Club on Friday that the Iraqi interim government understands the problem of insurgents having sanctuary, as do coalition leaders, and that dangerous cities will be taken back one way or the other.

"In Najaf, [U.S. forces] could have gone in and taken over the town; [we] had the military power to do it," he said. "And they had Iraqi forces ready to take care of the shrines, so the coalition forces wouldn't have to do it."

"It turned out they didn't have to. The fact that it was clear to [Muqtada] al-Sadr and his crowd — the militia — that they did have the ability to do that was what led al-Sadr to get out of town and turn in their weapons."

"There are other places that will be taken by force and it's really going to be a choice between the people in those towns and I don't mean the innocent Iraqi people, the overwhelmingly majority of which support the government ...



Rumsfeld

what will take place in Fallujah: It will be restored under the control of the Iraqi government. We just don't know how; whether it'll be done peacefully or by force."

Rumsfeld cautioned that there will be no clear sign of victory in the global war on terror, but that it is a necessary action and one that will ultimately make the world safer.

"We can't make people safe, because terrorists can attack at any time, any place, using any technique. It's not possible to defend in every place in the world, at every moment, day or night, against every conceivable threat."

Rumsfeld was asked about President Bush's recent comments that the war against terror cannot be won.

"It isn't the kind of a war that ends with a signing cere-

mony on the [USS] Missouri. ... There's some things that you have to keep working on."

"We've got a bunch of people sending money to schools that put these young people in there and told them how to go out and kill ... and lie to them, and tell them that they're going to go to heaven! Will there maybe always be people out there who will try to pollute young minds? Maybe there will be, in which case, we're going to have to keep working the problem."

When asked about the administration's efforts in the pursuit of Osama bin Laden:

"[Osama bin Laden] has not been seen on video since 2001. Why is he busy? It's because of the pressure we have put on him."

"This task we have is to do everything humanly possible to try to protect the American people, and this government has done a lot to make this world safer, and this coalition has done a lot to make this world safer."

"The great sweep of human history is freedom, and that is on our side."

E-mail pat Dickson at: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mil

2nd BCT troops settle into their Iraq home

GIs make the best of camp in volatile region

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq — The volatile Sunni Muslim city of Ramadi will be in the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team's area of operations during a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

The brigade, known as the Strike Force, deployed to the Middle East from bases in South Korea last month and Saturday officially assumes responsibility for the area from the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Riley, Kan. The area comes under command of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, responsible for Al Anbar province, west of Baghdad.

Al Anbar province includes Ramadi, the even more violent nearby town of Fallujah and the long desert border with Syria to the west. Other key towns in the province are the border towns of Al Qaim, Hit and Al Asad.

The main Strike Force base in Iraq is Camp Ramadi, but soldiers from the brigade's combat team will operate out of several other installations in and around Ramadi, officials said.

Al Anbar experienced violent flare-ups in April and June that resulted in firefights involving Marines in Ramadi and Fallujah. A truce was negotiated in Fallujah after the intervention of a group of former Iraqi army officers, but critics say it amounted to handing the city over to insur-

gents using it as a base for strikes against coalition forces.

The Associated Press reported this week that U.S. land forces commander Army Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz said assaults on Ramadi and Fallujah, as well as Baghdad's Sadr City suburb, are likely in the next four months as the Iraqi election in January draws near.

Ramadi is one of the most dangerous places in Iraq to work. The 1st ID has sustained more than 500 casualties, including 50 fatalities, during its deployment, officials said. But people living in the smaller villages and in the desert are perceived as friendly by U.S. troops.

Al Anbar encompasses a variety of environments, from harsh, dry desert conditions to moist, fertile farmland near the Euphrates River and the massive lakes Habbaniyah and Thar-Thar. Marines patrol the waterways in small boats and search islands for weapons caches, officials said.

The lakes are tourist attractions for Iraqis, who swim and catch fish in them. But soldiers are not allowed to swim, especially in the Euphrates, which has a strong undercurrent, officials said.

The standard of living for Iraqis living in Ramadi appears to be good compared with other parts of the country. The city has electricity, running water, police and fire departments, hospitals and an ambulance service, schools and markets.

A significant increase in vehi-

cles on the streets over the past year is evidence of increasing economic activity, soldiers said. The 1st ID has been involved in numerous civil affairs projects, most notably repairing Ramadi's water system, which was inoperative when the unit arrived, officials said.

Agriculture is a major industry in Al Anbar Province, with many families breeding sheep or goats for their own sustenance. In downtown Ramadi, sheep are slaughtered in the streets and markets sell a variety of produce including melons, fruits such as dates, pomegranates.

The bases that Strike Force occupies vary from a featureless moonscape to the relatively pleasant palm groves at Camp Ramadi. Soldiers there eat the sugary dates that drop from the trees.

Summer temperatures in Al Anbar reach 115 degrees, cooler than the scorching temperatures of up to 138 degrees that Strike Force soldiers saw in Kuwait, where they stopped en route from South Korea.

Late October is the rainy season in the province when persistent, annoying drizzle turns Camp Ramadi, which is affected by groundwater from the Euphrates, into a mud pit, 1st ID soldiers said. In winter, the mercury drops to near freezing, making for some chilly patrols and observation posts.

But many local children do not seem to notice, wearing shorts and T-shirts year-round, the soldiers said.

Camp Ramadi, a former Iraqi army garrison, includes barracks buildings, five Morale Welfare and Recreation facilities, gymnasiums for each battalion stationed there, a post exchange, several basketball and volleyball courts, a soccer field, two softball fields and a horseshoe pit.

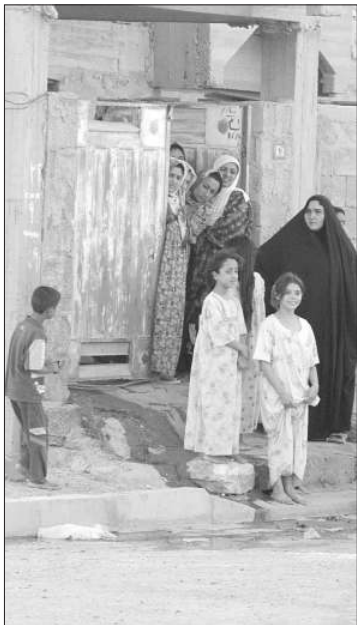
All four services work there —

"The area reminds me a bit of the Southern Californian desert. It's a little hotter, but it doesn't really bother me. It's better than the humidity of South Korea."

Charles Romero
Captain



Capt. Charles Romero of Headquarters Headquarters Company says the area around Camp Ramadi, Iraq, reminds him of the desert in Southern California. He's from Fresno.



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Local women and children peer around a doorway Tuesday in the Iraqi city of Ramadi. Despite the city's volatile reputation, U.S. troops say the residents are friendly.

Marines, Army, Air Force observers and Navy Seabees. The first visible landmarks near Camp Ramadi are the tall smokestacks of a glass factory that has provided glass ashtrays for some soldiers at the camp.

The base gets rocketed or mortared two to three times a week but the insurgents' accuracy is low. So far, only one mortar has done major damage, landing among a group of Seabees and killing six personnel a few months ago.

After two weeks of living at Camp Ramadi, Capt. Charles Romero, 37, of Fresno, Calif., is settling into his new home.

"The area reminds me a bit of the Southern Californian desert. It's a little hotter, but it doesn't really bother me," said Romero, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "It's better than the humidity of South Korea."

Sgt. Jaime Torres, 24, of Puerto Rico and a 2nd Forward Support Battalion soldier who is living at a camp dubbed TQ, said arriving at the base was a sort of homecoming. He served there on one of two previous Iraq tours, he

said.

There have many improvements at the camp, including provision of MWR facilities for every company based there, more air conditioning and better force protection, he said.

"Small-arms fire doesn't really happen. It's much safer than Fallujah," he said, having served a tour there with the 82nd Airborne.

Torres said he has spent three of the last four years deployed: two previous tours to Iraq, one to Afghanistan and one to South Korea.

Lt. Col. Mike Cabrey, commander of the 1st ID's 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, said a year in Al Anbar Province goes by quickly.

"Measure each day by doing something that makes your own life better here," he said. "The same attention to detail that causes you to be focused on everything you do should be the same the last day as the first day. Nothing is routine. It is serious business every time you go out."

E-mail: Seth Robson at robson@spjstripes.com

Officers testify on behalf of accused soldier

BY DAVID RISING
The Associated Press

HANAU, Germany — The commanding officers of a U.S. soldier charged with murdering a driver for militant Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr in Iraq testified Friday that it would have been almost impossible to evacuate the critically injured man from the combat zone.

Army Capt. Rogelio Maynulet, 29, denies the charges of murder and dereliction of duty in the May 21 death of the driver.

Maynulet had been leading his 1st Armored Division tank company on a patrol when it came across a BMW sedan believed to be carrying al-Sadr militiamen and a chase ensued. U.S. soldiers fired at the vehicle, wounding both the driver and passenger.

At a hearing this week to determine whether Maynulet should be court-martialed, a fellow officer testified that Maynulet told him a medic had said there was no hope of saving the man, whose head had been blown open, and that he shot the driver out of compassion.

Witnesses say injured Iraqi man could not have been evacuated from combat zone

Maj. Todd Walsh, who was overseeing the mission from the battalion's tactical operations center, testified Friday that it would have been unprecedented to send a helicopter to evacuate an injured Iraqi in a combat situation.

"It is possible, based on a commander's assessment he had secured the site ... but you only take that type of risk with U.S. casualties," Walsh testified.

No medivac was requested. But Lt. Col. Robert White, who was commanding the battalion, said it would have been too dangerous even if there had been a request.

"I would not have authorized it," White said.

The Article 32 hearing — the military version of a civilian grand jury investigation — was closed to the press repeatedly as the officers reviewed a video tape of the incident caught by an Army drone

aircraft. Hearing officer Maj. Michael J. Fadden said the material is classified because it might show the capabilities of U.S. technology in Iraq, though the defense team has asked that it be opened to the public.

Both officers who testified Friday spoke highly of Maynulet, calling him their top company commander in Iraq.

"He was extremely competent," Walsh testified.

White conceded that shooting a suspected paramilitary who was no longer fighting looked bad for the Army and could affect the

"order and discipline" of a fighting unit. Still, he said that he would not hesitate to have Maynulet as a company commander if he were back in Iraq.

The hearings ran for four days in June in Baghdad before being moved to Hanau in July. The prosecution has tried to paint Maynulet, of Chicago, as an officer who was willing to break the rules when it suited him.

The officers were questioned Friday about an incident in which Maynulet was reprimanded for having his troops break into an Iraqi police station to retrieve a ci-

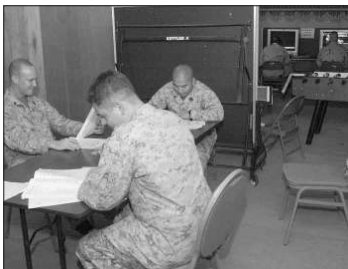
vilian translator's identification card he believed was inappropriately confiscated.

White testified that he talked with Maynulet after the break-in, ordering him to pay for the damage and apologize. Another of Maynulet's translators had recently been assassinated, however, and White said he understood his officer's apprehension about having another employee's name become widely known.

"He felt there was a direct threat to his interpreter," White testified, adding that he did not think the incident was a reflection on Maynulet's ability to command.

The hearing is scheduled to close Monday. Fadden then has to review transcripts of all the testimony before making his decision on whether to send the case to court-martial.

Officers test for their futures



Petty officers third class from the Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, take the Navy's semiannual advancement exam for petty officer second class Friday in a corner of the morale, welfare and recreation tent at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, as other military members play video games in the background. The sailors arrived in Kuwait on Thursday night and will deploy with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. They are, from left, Petty Officers 3rd Class Justin Vincler, Irving Ochao and Dan Derrick.

JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Tape rallies al-Qaida supporters on anniversary of terror attacks

BY NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — For the second year in a row, al-Qaida released a videotape rallying its supporters near the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, and experts were investigating if the images of the terror network's No. 2 leader were new or not.

In the tape, broadcast Thursday by the Arab television station Al-Jazeera, Ayman al-Zawahiri proclaims that the United States will be defeated in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The defeat of America in Iraq and Afghanistan has become a matter of time, with God's help," al-Zawahiri said on the tape.

"The Americans in both countries are between two fires, if they continue they bleed to death and if they withdraw they lose everything."

U.S. forces face fierce resistance in parts of Afghanistan and across Iraq, but military commanders insist they maintain the upper hand against insurgents in both countries.

Pakistani army spokesman

Gen. Shaukat Sultan, whose forces staged an offensive against al-Qaida and Taliban remnants in the border region with Afghanistan this week, said the tape was likely aimed at "boosting the morale of the terrorists who have suffered heavy casualties."

After a technical analysis of the video aired on Al-Jazeera on Thursday, the CIA assessed with a high level of confidence that the person who appears in al-Zawahiri, an agency official said Friday, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Experts were investigating what message the video released Thursday might be seeking to convey and whether the videotape is actually an older audiotape, now joined with its images.

Al-Qaida has issued an audio tape from bin Laden in the two previous years on Sept. 10.

If the latest tape is from al-Zawahiri, it would be the first time since December 2001 that bin Laden's No. 2 has appeared in a video in which he is speaking and delivering a message, the official said, although he was purport-

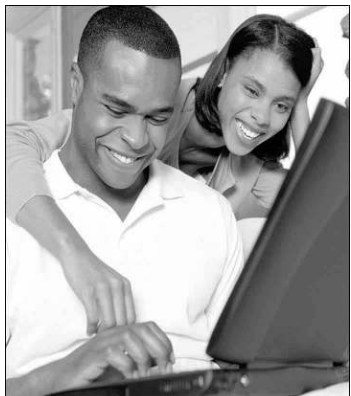
ed to have made a statement in an audiotape on June 11.

In the latest tape, al-Zawahiri makes a rare appearance without bin Laden, proclaiming that the era of security for Americans is over and they will never enjoy it again unless their government stops what he described as crimes against Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine.

He also warned of plans to tear apart the Arab and Islamic worlds, saying that includes the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt and Sudan, particularly the troubled Darfur region where conflict has raged for 19 months.

Al-Jazeera's presenter said the presenter said al-Qaida's "annual message" is meant to show the terror network has "no problems and, as al-Zawahiri said, they see themselves as winning."

Bin Laden and al-Zawahiri are believed hiding along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.



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Loss of NCO haunts Company A soldiers

2nd BCT staff sgt. escaped brush with death only to die days later in blast

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HABBANIYAH, Iraq — Fellow soldiers say it took insurgents two attempts to kill Staff Sgt. Gary Alexander Vaillant of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 72nd Armored Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

The 41-year-old Puerto Rican father died Sunday in Khaldiya, when an anti-tank mine exploded beside the M1A1 Abrams tank he commanded. It was the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's first combat fatality since the unit deployed to Iraq from bases in South Korea.

Company A commander Capt. Chris Plekenpol, 27, of Dallas, said Vaillant survived an encounter with an anti-tank mine just one day before he died.

That day, Vaillant — a 15-year career noncommissioned officer and Operation Desert Storm veteran — destroyed a mine by shooting it with a .50-caliber machine gun before it could detonate, he said.

"In a sense, he escaped death then," Plekenpol said.

The next day, Vaillant was patrolling the same street, poking his head out of the hatch on top of his Abrams when the anti-tank mine detonated, Plekenpol said.

Vaillant's ammunition loader, Pfc. Stanley Cuffee, 22, of Richmond, Va., was also peering out of the tank when the attack came. Cuffee escaped injury, but the force of the blast threw him back inside the turret, knocking his communications gear off his head.

Moments later, the body of his commander landed on top of him, Cuffee said.

The young tanker was in shock until his gunner, Sgt. David Olansoto, 39, of Puerto Rico, ordered him to get it together and pull security with the tank's M240 machine gun, Cuffee said. When Cuffee talks about what happened, his eyes have the haunted look of a man who has seen hell.

"It's like a VCR with a never-ending rewinding button. It plays through my head over and over. I know it is something I will never forget, but as long as I keep talking about it and don't bottle it up, it won't bother me as much," he said.

When he looks at the damage that the anti-tank mine did to the Abrams, which sits in a hangar beside a similarly mutilated Humvee, Cuffee knows he will never feel as safe inside a tank as he once did, he said.

The anti-tank mine is one of the most powerful bombs being used by insurgents. Even the heavily armored Abrams could not withstand its fury.

The right side of the tank bears the scars of its ordeal — gaping holes big enough to push a large wrench through are visible along the entire length of the vehicle. Shrapnel appears to have penetrated the heavily armored turret and ripped big holes in the inch-thick armor plates guarding its tracks. Bulletproof glass around the hatch where Vaillant was standing is shattered, and one of the track wheels has a



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Above: Pfc. Stanley Cuffee, left, an ammunition loader with 2nd Battalion, 72nd Armored Regiment, transferred to a new tank after an attack Sunday in Khaldiya that killed their commander, Staff Sgt. Gary Alexander Vaillant. Below: Vaillant's dog tags hang from the unit's flag in Iraq.

large chunk missing.

The other 2-72 tanks are parked nearby, including the tank that Vaillant's crewmembers transferred to the day after the accident so that they could continue patrols.

Cuffee, who arrived in South Korea shortly before Vaillant last November, said one of his last memories of his commander is of Vaillant collecting toys, soccer balls and baseball gloves to give to Iraqi children shortly before his last mission.

"Me and him had our differences, but every time he chewed me out for not doing what I was supposed to do, he would come back and apologize. He has done a lot for me," he said.

Olansoto, the gunner, recalled eating with Vaillant at a Puerto Rican restaurant in South Korea. Losing a comrade hurts, but Olansoto is staying focused on his mission, he said.

"You can't let your emotions and feelings get to you. I have to finish the mission and get my other soldiers back," he said.

Company A commander Plekenpol said he and Vaillant shared a strong

Christian faith.

"He was a great man of God, which is awesome for me because I am, too. We were brothers in arms as well as brothers in Christ," he said.

Vaillant, who was a minister in the Assembly of God church, often spoke to other soldiers about his faith, Plekenpol said.

"Sometimes people were like: 'Man, all right, that's enough.' But he never quit and never stopped. The hope in his heart was that he would be able to lead some [Iraqi] child or adult to join Jesus Christ, but he



never got that opportunity," he said.

The 2-72 tankers have all been affected by the death but are determined to push on with their mission, he said.

"We are not going to avenge his death," Plekenpol said. "We are going to see that his death paves the way for freedom. We

can allow the Iraqi people to experience the freedom that most Americans take for granted," Plekenpol said.

Vaillant is survived by his wife, Michaela, and daughter, Sarah, 12, who live in Vine Grove, Ky.

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Many at Giessen mourn platoon commander Price, of 709th Battalion, died in Baghdad from sniper's bullet

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

GIESSEN, Germany — When asked after the memorial how many of his soldiers have died in Iraq, the commander reached into his pocket to retrieve a small key ring holding six dog tags.

"These are all of them," Lt. Col. John Garrity said, "plus Tim Price."

With reluctance and pride, the commander of the 709th Military Police Battalion soon will add another tag to his ring of honor.

That one will bear the name of 1st Lt. Timothy E. Price.

More than 250 people attended a morning memorial service in Giessen on Friday for the

25-year-old platoon leader.

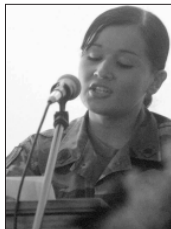
Price "never let things bother him," said Spc. Brent Geers, a Baumholder soldier who served with the lieutenant in Iraq last year.

"... He was always motivated by the moment."

Though he already had spent nine months in Iraq — from May 2003 to February 2004 with the 527th Military Police Company — Price accepted a second tour of duty in June.

The 127th MP Company needed a platoon leader, and Price accepted the challenge, Garrity said.

"There is no way to describe a



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS
/Stars and Stripes

Left: A soldier gives a final salute to 1st Lt. Timothy E. Price at his memorial service in Giessen, Germany, Friday. Price was killed in Iraq on Tuesday. Above: Spc. Emily Rodriguez sings "Amazing Grace."

warrior without using Tim Price as an example," Garrity said at the service.

On Tuesday, Price was leading his platoon on a mission in Baghdad when he was shot and killed by a sniper. His death was the seventh in Iraq for the battalion.

"He volunteered to go," said 1st Lt. Jeremy Kerfoot, a Virginia Tech classmate who spoke at the memorial.

"He would have it no other way."

Services such as this one are always tough, but the sendoff Price received was one of the most heartfelt.

The church was packed, from the front row to the back wall to the choir loft above.

Most of those in attendance were soldiers.

Many were tearful.

After the service ended, several soldiers not yet ready to walk away lingered in the back of the chapel, looking toward the front where a helmet, rifle, pair of boots and some mementos were situated.

One of the mementos was a Virginia Tech sports shirt. There were several pictures, too.

Before the service started, a brief slide show was displayed. It

showed color snapshots of Price on some of his European tours. Often, he was seen hugging it up with a bunch of his buddies.

"He loved to go see castles," remembered Capt. William Rodgers, who called Price "a gifted young soldier."

Kerfoot, the college chum, shared a few stories involving his longtime friend. At the end of his eulogy, he said he needed to perform one "last ring check," and then rapped his college ring against the wooden lectern.

The chapel fell silent.

"Tim," Kerfoot said, "where have you gone?"

Price is survived by his father, John H. Price III; mother, Kathy J. Bogdan; and brother, Thomas W. Price.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal with one oak-leaf cluster and the Purple Heart.

Garrity is not looking forward to the metal he'll receive with Price's name on it. The idea for the honor ring, he said, came from Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Paff, who holds a duplicate copy.

"I'll carry those dog tags with me for the rest of my life," Garrity said.

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Military panel finds GI guilty of being absent without leave

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A 54th Engineer Battalion soldier will spend 30 days in jail after being found guilty Thursday of being absent without leave while his unit was deployed to Iraq.

Sergeant 1st Class Ezzeel White, 42, also was convicted of disobeying a lawful order and being absent from his place of duty. He was reduced to the rank of staff sergeant and sentenced to 30 days' confinement and forfeiture of \$500 per month of his military pay for 30 months.

A nine-member panel of officers and noncommissioned officers deliberated for 3½ hours before rendering a verdict in the two-day court-martial. White was found innocent of another charge, disrespect to a superior commissioned officer.

According to court testimony, White's superior officer, Capt. Nathan Betts, ordered him to Kuwait from Logansport, Ind. Woodway, Iraq, during the first week of June 2003 to pick up desert combat uniforms, boots and other supplies.

White sent the uniforms and supplies back to a convoy several days later, but he remained in Kuwait. His failure to return with the convoy led to several unsuccessful attempts by battalion officers to get on re-

supply convoys in late June and July. Government testimony indicated that White was staying in Kuwait because he thought he was of better use to the battalion there.

Evidence at the trial showed that White was suffering from back problems and hyper-

tension and had a temporary medical profile that prohibited him from wearing body armor. Body armor was required in order to ride in the resupply convoys. Col. Ronald Reniart, a doctor from the hospital in Kuwait who saw White as a patient, testified that he could have worn the body armor, but it would have caused "undue pain."

When the third resupply convoy arrived in Kuwait, White was in intensive care at the hospital near Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

Tests showed that he was suffering from hypertensive heart disease and that his blood pressure was critically high.

He was later medically evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and then returned to his home station of Warner Barracks in Bamberg, Germany.

Maj. Alan Jenest, a U.S. Army Reserve internist who was mobilized and working at the Bamberg medical clinic, testified that White's blood pressure was in the highest stage and he was suffering from severe hypertension.

In Bamberg, White missed three medical appointments, which led to the charge of failure to report.

During closing arguments White's defense lawyers portrayed him as an exemplary noncommissioned officer who motivated soldiers, while prosecutors painted

him as a disrespectful, selfish soldier who tried to get out of work.

"He was there wanting a profile so he wouldn't have to be on the convoy back to Iraq," said prosecutor Maj. Vince Vanek, of White's refusal to return to Iraq and his multiple visits to the hospital at Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

"The government wants you to believe this is a dirtbag NCO," said defense counsel David Court. "We want you to see the rest of the picture. His commander from 1996 came back to testify that he would share a foxhole with him. His (noncommissioned officer evaluation reports) say he is a fast tracker, great NCO, highly motivated."

Prior to sentencing, White spoke of following in his father's footsteps with a career in the Army. At the end of his unsavory testimony, he stood in the witness box and, in a shaky voice, apologized for his actions.

"I would like to say I'm sorry to Jackson," White said, referring to Lt. Col. Donald Jackson, the former 54th Engineer Battalion commander who was sitting in the courtroom. "I was not myself. I take full responsibility for what I did. I'm sorry I let you down, and I'm sorry I let the troops down."

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"We want you to see the rest of the picture. His commander from 1996 came back to testify that he would share a foxhole with him. His (noncommissioned officer evaluation reports) say he is a fast tracker, great NCO, highly motivated."

David Court
Defense counsel

POW/MIA Week activities

Stars and Stripes

Several events have been planned at RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath, England, to commemorate POW/MIA Week, which begins Monday.

Events at RAF Mildenhall include:

■ **Sunday:** A free showing of the movie "Good Morning, Vietnam" will be held at 2 p.m. in the Gateway Dining Facility. The movie is based on the exploits of an Air Force sergeant, Adrian Cronauer, who was a radio voice in Vietnam during the war. He is a featured visitor for the week at the base.

■ **Monday:** Cronauer speaks during the POW/MIA luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Galaxy Club. Cronauer is special assistant to the deputy assistant of the Secretary of Defense for POW/MIAs. Also, beginning Monday and running through the week will be static displays at the POW/MIA Memorial on base.

■ **Tuesday:** A POW cell similar to those endured by prisoners in Vietnam will be displayed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the POW/MIA Memorial. Mildenhall members will take turns spending 30 minutes in the cell.

■ **Wednesday:** A five-kilometer formation run (about three miles) will begin at the POW/MIA Memorial. Runners should be in place at 11 a.m.

■ **Thursday:** A remembrance wreath and hat-laying ceremony, where hats representing all branches of the service will be displayed in memory of POWs and MIAs, will be held at 5 p.m. Also, volunteers will begin reading the names of POWs and MIA personnel at 5 p.m. The reading will end at 5 p.m. Friday.

■ **Friday:** A retreat ceremony at 5 p.m. will end the name-reading. Another wreath will be placed at the memorial and the hats will be collected. The ceremony will include a flyover.

RAF Lakenheath's week of events includes a 24-hour vigil at Wings of Liberty Park on Thursday. Other events include:

■ **Monday:** Nondenominational service at 7 p.m. at the base chapel.

■ **Tuesday:** A Rolling Thunder Safety Ride will begin at 1:45 p.m. at the Bxtra at RAF Mildenhall. The motorcycle procession will ride to RAF Lakenheath and hold a brief wreath-laying ceremony at Wings of Liberty Park.

■ **Wednesday:** A five-kilometer run will begin at 7 a.m. at the sports complex behind the high school.

■ **Thursday:** A luncheon will be held at Eagles' Landing at 11 a.m. Cronauer will attend.

■ **Friday:** A retreat conducted by the First Term Airman Center will be held at 5 p.m. at Liberty Circle.

Baumholder unveils Iraq memorial

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — Beyond being a combat arms base and training area, Baumholder is a community.

So when it came down to selecting the words for a monument saluting soldiers from Baumholder who died in Iraq, the choice was a community effort.

On the left-hand page of the 4-foot, book-shaped marble marker at the center of the base is a quote from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower: "History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid."

Inscribed on the right-hand page is Baumholder's personalized salute to its fallen: "In remembrance of the soldiers of the Baumholder Military Community who gave their lives so that others may live in a peaceful, secure and free world."

"What I like about [the quote] is that it came from the community," said Lt. Col. Todd Buchs, 22nd Base Support Battalion commander during the deployment. It was a collaboration with Brig. Gen. Mike Scaparotti, former assistant division commander and representatives of the 2nd brigade and battalions, as well as the Baumholder Community Spouses Club, which helped fund the memorial. "We spent a lot of time on the words."

Five battalion commanders representing the battalions that lost soldiers, along with Heien Williams, president of the Baumholder Community Spouses Club, unveiled the monument, which opened the first of four 1st Armored Division welcome home events. Festivities included rides, music and fireworks.

Ceremonies are scheduled Wednesday for 1st Brigade headquarters at Friedberg; Friday at 4th Brigade headquarters in Hanau; and Oct. 7 at division headquarters in Wiesbaden.

Friday's celebration — recognizing the



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commanding general, and his wife, Deannie, pay their respects Friday at the new memorial to the Baumholder-based 1st AD soldiers who died in Iraq.

Baumholder-based 2nd Brigade's and Division Artillery's return — began at noon with a somber unveiling of the plaque to the Baumholder fallen in front of the BSB headquarters. A crowd of about 400, including former 1st AD commander — now V Corps commander — Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, attended. They listened to speakers, including Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, current 1st Division commander, and to a reading of the names of the 20 Baumholder-based soldiers who died during 15 months in Iraq.

"When I look at this list of names, I wonder, 'Which one of these men would have been a sergeant major, a college professor, a doctor, a minister, a loving father, a trusted

friend?' " said Col. Ralph O. Baker, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander in the main address.

Baker referred back to the sunny day in March, 2003, when soldiers gathered here for brigade deployment ceremony photo ops with squads, platoons and battle buddies. Senior officers that day "spoke eloquently, yet directly, to the reality that hung heavily over the event: The event was coming home," he said.

Sadly, said Buchs, the new memorial "may not be the last. Baumholder is a deployable community. It's always been a deployable community. And it may deploy again."

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

Navy slated as first to civilianize medical jobs

Starting with the Navy next July, the services will begin a multiyear effort to replace thousands of uniformed medical personnel in base hospitals and clinics with federal civilian hires and, in some cases, private contractors.

This is part of the Bush administration's plan to "transform" the military, in this case by converting 10 to 12 percent of military medical billets into civilian jobs, which would reduce personnel turbulence in the health care system and, over time, lower personnel costs.

As many as 15,000 jobs could be impacted through 2011 if the

New plan could impact up to 15,000 positions by 2011

Army and Air Force match the Navy, which has identified 5,400 medical positions, out of 41,000, as having no "readiness" mission to justify being filled by uniformed personnel. The Navy said more than 35,000 medical billets must remain military, however, because of the requirement to deploy with the fleet, serve alongside Marines or be sent to bases overseas, when needed.

In recent years, Navy Medicine had identified "nonreadiness" billets with "potential to be converted to civilian or contractor," said

Lt. Cmdr. Tim Weber, head of manpower operations for the Navy's Bureau of Medicine. It therefore was ready last January when Defense leaders directed it to convert 1,772 medical billets to civilian jobs during July through September 2005.

The remaining 3,643 nonreadiness billets could be converted later in the current budget planning cycle, which runs through 2011.

Army and Air Force medical billet conversions are expected to begin in fiscal 2006 but the num-

ber of jobs involved awaits final approval.

For 2005, the Navy requested \$35.8 million to add 1,772 civilian medical workers to its payroll for the last three months of fiscal 2005. That's an average cost of \$20,000 per new employee for the July-through-September quarter, or \$80,000 per position annually.

No military personnel will be involuntarily separated for this, Weber said. Because Navy medicine is slightly understaffed, those leaving converted billets will fill existing vacancies in readiness-related billets.

The conversion process, said Weber, is an opportunity for medical commands to reorganize to be more efficient. For example, he said, a hospital converting 10 corpsmen filling administrative billets might decide to hire only five civilian replacements but also three transcription specialists to lighten the paperwork load of physicians.

Every Navy surgeon serves in a readiness billet so none of these jobs will be converted. But 150 primary care physician jobs will be filled by civilians just in the first three months of the plan. Of the 1,772 billets to be converted in late 2005, more than 500 are officers and 1,200 enlisted.

This fall the Bureau of Medicine will finalize the list of jobs to be converted in late fiscal 2005, Weber said.

The conversion of medical billets, first reported by The Washington Post, is part of a larger Defense Department effort to civilianize as many military billets as possible to make more effective use of uniformed personnel. More than 20,000 jobs are to be converted this year and next.

Premiums rising

Medicare Part B premiums will make their biggest jump ever in January, rising by 17 percent, or \$11.60, to a new monthly rate of \$78.20.

The announcement stiffened the resolve of military retirees backing HR 3474, the "Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees" bill. Among other things, HR 3474 would waive Part B premiums for elderly military retirees who need Part B coverage to participate in Tricare for Life.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111. e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

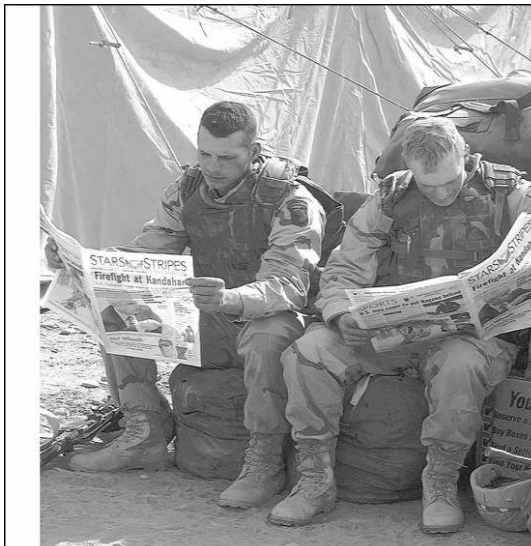
Nerve gas disposal

HERMISTON, Ore. — Workers on Wednesday destroyed the first nerve gas rocket in a long-delayed \$2.4 billion project to dispose of chemical weapons left over from the Cold War.

An electrical problem with a trap door designed to release chopped-up metal parts temporarily delayed disposal of the M-55 rocket in one of the four incinerators built for the Army project at its Umatilla Chemical Depot.

An emergency shut-off switch had been inadvertently pressed, preventing the door from opening, said Army spokeswoman Mary Binder. Technicians overrode the system with a jumper cable to deliver the rocket parts to an incinerator that burns off any traces of the remaining nerve agent.

From The Associated Press



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Two great treats



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHLEEN WHALEN

Air Force Staff Sgt. Steven Reyes and daughter Tatiana share a book and enjoy their ice cream cones during "Scoop of Literacy" day at Croughan American School in England. The event Wednesday celebrated International Literacy Day and the 100th birthday of the ice cream cone.

Female general to head sexual assault policy for Pentagon

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Thursday named a female one-star general to a newly created position as policy chief for all matters related to sexual assault prevention and response.

Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain was described in a Pentagon announcement as the "single point of accountability" for all sexual assault policy within the Defense Department. She will report to David Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The announcement comes just days after the Air Force released a report that said sexual assaults at Air Force bases at home and abroad are more widespread than officials first believed.

The problem is not limited to the Air Force.

In a report last May, the Pentagon acknowledged problems in preventing, treating and investigating sexual assaults on military personnel. The task force that wrote the report recommended a series of primarily administrative changes aimed at increasing awareness throughout the ranks of how to respond, both medically and judicially, when a woman in uniform reports being assaulted.

In its report Aug. 30, the Air Force said investigators who visited 85 installations in the United States and overseas found that many women chose not to report rapes to their superiors

because they feared they would be disciplined. The report said "respondents repeatedly described sexual assault as a cultural issue in need of a compelling and sustained message."

The four-month investigation also found that response programs for victims were inadequate, that the Air Force has lacked a formal sexual assault policy and that existing training has been sporadic and focused more on sexual harassment rather than rape.

The investigation began in February, a year after a sex abuse scandal surfaced at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. The academy has overhauled its top leadership and policies on sexual assault after dozens of current and former female cadets complained they were ignored or punished after reporting assaults.

In her new post, McClain is responsible for sexual assault policy throughout the Defense Department, not just in the services.

McClain's current assignment is deputy director of operations for technical training at Air Education and Training Command headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. She oversees the planning, direction and implementation of Air Force policy for basic military training.

She also led the Air Education and Training Command's sexual assault awareness review, surveying 13 bases and briefing the secretary of the Air Force and his chief of staff.

Navy to name two ships in memory of Sept. 11 attacks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Navy announced Thursday it will name two planned ships after the places where two of the planes hijacked on Sept. 11, 2001, crashed.

The USS Arlington will be named for Arlington, Va., where the Pentagon is.

The USS Somerset will be named for the county in Pennsylvania where it is believed hijackers deliberately crashed their plane after passengers rose up against them.

The ships are amphibious transport docks, the eighth and ninth of the San Antonio class.

Each will have a crew of 363 people and will be capable of carrying 699 Marines.

Both the Arlington and Somerset

will be built by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems in New Orleans, the Navy said.

"The courage and heroism of the people aboard those flights,

"The courage and heroism of the people aboard those flights, and in the Pentagon, will never be forgotten by the American people."

Gordon England

Secretary of the Navy

New York after the site of the World Trade Center attacks.

Both the Arlington and the Somerset will be the third U.S. naval vessels to bear each name.

See related story on Page 14

Now, every time Ann Ramsaur hears about the USS Arlington, she'll think of her mother, Deborah Ramsaur, who worked at the Pentagon and was killed in the attack there.

But that's a good thing, the 10-year Annandale, Va., resident said. She likes thinking of her mother.

For younger brother Brian Ramsaur, 8, the whole day just seemed "cool," he said.

It was cool that he got to see the ship, cool that it honors his mother (and he knows what that means, he assured), cool that he got to visit the Pentagon.

"Wow, this is so cool," he said pointing to a model of the USS Arlington on display in the Pentagon auditorium.

Stripes reporter Sandra Jontz contributed to this report.

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IN THE STATES

Validity of latest Bush Guard memos under fire

Document examiner believes files were created in Word

BY MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Questions are being raised about the authenticity of newly unearthed memos which asserted that George W. Bush ignored a direct order from a superior officer in the Texas Air National Guard and lost his status as a pilot because he failed to meet military performance standards and undergo a required physical exam.

CBS, which reported on the memos on its "60 Minutes" program, said its experts who examined the documents concluded that they were authentic. They ostensibly were written by Lt. Col. Jerry Killian, one of Bush's commanders in 1972 and 1973.

But Killian's son, one of Killian's fellow officers and an independent document examiner questioned the memos. Gary Killian, who served in the Guard with his father and retired as a

captain in 1991, said he doubted his father would have written an unsigned memo which said there was pressure to "sugar coat" Bush's performance review.

"It just wouldn't happen," he said.

"No officer in his right mind would write a memo like that."

Bush spokesman Scott McClellan said Friday the White House, which distributed the memos after obtaining them from CBS, was not trying to verify their authenticity.

"We don't know if the documents are fabricated or authentic," McClellan told reporters traveling with the president to West Virginia.

McClellan suggested the memos surfaced as part of "an orchestrated effort by Democrats and the Kerry campaign to tear down the president."

Killian died in 1984. Independent document examiner Sandra Ramsey Lines said the

memos looked like they had been produced on a computer using Microsoft Word software. Lines, a document expert and fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, pointed to a superscript — a smaller, raised "in" in "11th Fighter Interceptor Squadron" — as evidence indicating forgery.

Microsoft Word automatically inserts superscripts in the same style as the two on the memos obtained by CBS, she said.

Lines produced a nearly identical document using her computer's Microsoft Word software.

The Defense Department released Bush's pilot logs this week under pressure from a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit by The Associated Press.

Bush's Vietnam-era Air National Guard service became a focus of Democratic criticism this week amid a flurry of new reports about his activities. Democrats say Bush shirked his National Guard duties, a claim Bush denies.

On the issues



What further campaign finance controls do you support, if any?

President Bush



"I believe that we must expand individual freedom to participate in elections, and believe that the law should protect the rights of individuals not to have their money spent in support of candidates with whom they disagree. I support the protection of union members and shareholders from in-

voluntary political activities undertaken by their leadership. I believe that 527s engaging in federal election activity should abide by the Federal Election Campaign Act and the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law — be subject to federal contribution limits and disclosure requirements like all other federal political committees."

Sen. John Kerry



"Our government should work for all Americans, not just a powerful few. That means we need to make sure that campaign contributions from wealthy interests and lobbyists don't drown out the voices of regular Americans. I'm proud that I was elected to the Senate four times without

taking a dollar of PAC money, and I was one of the earliest supporters of ending soft-money contributions to political parties. I co-sponsored legislation that was even stronger than the McCain-Feingold law that finally brought reform to our campaign finance laws. My approach would have closed the 527 loophole."

AP

Poll: Bush takes solid lead after convention

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Bush emerged from his New York convention with a solid lead over Democratic challenger John Kerry, strengthening his position on virtually every important issue in the campaign and opening up a clear advantage on many of the personal characteristics that influence voters in presidential elections, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News Poll.

For the first time in Post-ABC News poll this year, a majority of likely voters say they plan to vote for Bush. Among them, Bush holds a 52 percent to 43 percent lead over Kerry, with independent Ralph Nader at 2 percent. Among all registered voters, Bush leads Kerry 50 percent to 44 percent.

Among a smaller sample in 19 battleground states, Bush holds a narrower lead among likely voters, 50 percent to 46 percent. Among all voters in these states, the two candidates are running even, suggesting that voter turnout will be the key to victory.

The survey highlights the damage to Kerry during August and

the Republican National Convention. Bush got a four-point "bounce" in support among likely voters from his convention. But in other important ways, the poll suggests that Republicans achieved virtually all their objectives last week in New York. What won't be known for another few weeks is whether Bush's gains are transitory, as Kerry's were in the immediate aftermath of his convention.

In the five weeks since the Democratic convention, Kerry's favorable rating has plunged, after attacks on his Vietnam service from a group of anti-Kerry Vietnam veterans. Kerry's favorable rating fell from 51 percent at beginning of August to 36 percent among registered voters in the new Post-ABC News poll.

Bush's favorable rating rose slightly to 51 percent and his overall approval rating rose another notch to 52 percent.

A total of 1,202 randomly selected adults, including 952 self-described registered voters and 788 likely voters were interviewed by telephone Sept. 6-8. Margin of sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points.

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Kerry: Bush let assault weapons ban lapse

ST. LOUIS — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Friday that President Bush failed to protect Americans from criminals and terrorists by letting a ban on assault weapons expire next week.

"In the al-Qaida manual on terror, they were telling people to go out and buy assault weapons, to come to America and buy assault weapons," Kerry said. "Every law enforcement officer in America doesn't want us selling assault weapons in the streets of America, but George Bush, he says, 'Well, I'm for that.'"

As he frequently tells voters on the campaign trail, Kerry said he's a hunter and fisherman who respects the right of Americans to own guns. He has pledged to protect Second Amendment rights and said the ban can be reinstated without trampling those rights.

I mean, heavens to Betsy, folks, we've had that law on the books for the last 10 years, and there's not a gun owner in America who can stand up and say, 'They tried to take my guns away,'" Kerry said.

— The Associated Press

For many, Sept. 11 was a call to serve

Several fallen servicemembers joined because of terror attacks

BY PAULINE ARRILLAGA
The Associated Press

The day the horror of terrorism struck home was supposed to be a celebration for Michael Williams: It was his 44th birthday.

His wife had the chicken wings and pizza and cake, and so they ate them that night of Sept. 11, 2001 — while on their big-screen television they saw planes crashing and towers tumbling and their fellow citizens tormented by grief.

From their little corner of Buffalo, N.Y., they cried with a nation. "I can't believe this happened on my birthday," Williams would say.

And he couldn't believe it happened in his beloved country.

Weeks later, without even telling his wife, Williams re-enlisted in the Army National Guard. It was his duty, he explained to those who tried to change his mind, like his uncle, Larry McAlister, who worried there might be a war and warned: "You could lose yourself."

"He just kind of smiled and didn't say too much," McAlister then, Williams did go to war. And he didn't come back.

He is one of dozens of soldiers who were inspired to join the military after the Sept. 11 attacks and later died in the deserts of Iraq.

Many, like Williams, didn't know any of the terrorists' victims.

It didn't matter.

Some lived far from the devastat-

tion, in other states, on the opposite coast. They didn't stand in the rubble or breathe the lingering scent of death. That didn't matter, either.

"Mike joined because of a calling in him, and he didn't mind putting his life on the line for it," says Williams' cousin, James Robbins. "It was not the issue of money. It was not the issue of a subsidized income. He had nothing to gain. When the building came down, that destroyed him inside. To see the people jumping out the windows, he couldn't take it."

"I've grown to admire him even more in his death," he says. "I admire him for standing up."

An Associated Press review of U.S. casualties in Iraq found at least two dozen other soldiers bound by the same calling.

Men like James Harlan, a father of five with a fiancée and a job in the streets department in Owensboro, Ky. At 44, after two decades in the military and reserve.

Harlan signed back up after Sept. 11. He was in his second tour in Iraq with the Army Reserve's 660th Transportation Company when a suicide bomber attacked his fuel convoy last May 14.

Colombian-born Diego Rincon wasn't even a U.S. citizen when anger over the assault on his adopted nation spurred him to join the Army. The 19-year-old from Conyers, Ga., died March 29, 2003, when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive at a roadblock.



Carolyn Williams, widow of SPC Michael Williams, receives the flag from a New York State Corrections Officer at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, N.Y., during her husband's funeral Oct. 25, 2003. Williams, a member of the Army National Guard 105th Military Police, died Oct. 17, 2003, after his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb south of Baghdad. After Sept. 11, 2001, Williams had re-enlisted in the National Guard.

Following Rincon's death, Debra Burlingame, whose brother Charles was the pilot on the hijacked plane that struck the Pentagon, wrote to his family to express her gratitude to "a brave heart, a dedicated soldier and a true American Patriot."

Cory Geurin was just starting his senior year in high school when, only a week after Sept. 11, he told his mother: "They're messin' with my generation, and I'm not gonna let it happen. I want to join the Marines."

Darlene Geurin had detected a change in her only son ever since the morning she roused him from bed to watch reports of the attacks. In the days that followed, her son and his friends would congregate at their house in Santee, Calif. — but instead of watching MTV, they turned on the news. A few weeks later, a recruiter was sitting in their living room.

"He grew up after 9/11. He went from a teenager who was worried about who his next date was and wrestling matches to somebody who wanted to do some-

thing about the way the world was," Darlene Geurin says. "And he did."

Because Cory was just 17, his parents had to grant permission for him to enlist. In November 2001, on a school day, he took the oath. He died July 15, 2003, after falling 60 feet from the roof of an Iraqi palace he was guarding.

"I always wonder, if it hadn't happened — if 9/11 hadn't happened — would he have gone to college?" Darlene Geurin asked. "Would he still be alive? It's a very hard day for us."

What the Geurin family doesn't question is President Bush's rationale for going to war — rooted in part on assertions that there was a link between Saddam Hussein and the terrorist group behind the attacks on New York and Washington. The commission that investigated the plot has since concluded there was no collaborative relationship between the former Iraqi dictator and al-Qaida.

"People say, 'Do you have regrets that your son went?' No, because I know in my heart my son

had no regrets," says Cory's father, Dennis Geurin. "We fight because of one reason: We believe we're doing the right thing at the time for our country. Cory signed up to defend this country. He didn't say, 'I'm only going to fight the war I believe in.'"

Some find the deaths harder to justify.

"My nephew lost his life for nothing," says Williams' uncle, Larry McAlister. "I'm patriotic, too, but it's got to be for the real deal."

When Williams returned home briefly during the summer of 2003 for his grandmother's funeral, a comrade was killed in action. Williams would later tell his buddies he felt guilty he hadn't been there. Once he was back in Iraq, he wrote a letter to his co-workers, thanking them for taking up the slack caused by his absence.

"He's the one standing at death's door, and he would write and worry about us and our families and things we were going through," says his boss and close friend, Barbara Leon. "That was Michael."

Fla. storm horror: Hurricane No. 3 on way

BY BRYAN ROXIE
The Associated Press

KEY WEST, Fla. — Before Florida could catch a breath from a furious hurricane double-whammy, residents of the Keys were sent scurrying Friday under new evacuation orders as powerful Hurricane Ivan took aim at the state.

In South Florida, long lines reappeared at gas stations while shoppers snapped up hurricane supplies at home building stores and supermarkets in preparation for the possibility of a third strike in a month — this time by Hurricane Ivan, which forecasters said could slam Florida's narrow island chain as early as Monday. The state has not been hit by three hurricanes in a single season since 1964.

Still stunned with recovery efforts from hurricanes Frances and Charley, Gov. Jeb Bush said workers would redouble their around-the-clock efforts. "We're not worried about hurricane amnesia anymore," he said. "We're worried about hurricane anxiety."

See related story on Page 15

The National Hurricane Center said Ivan could hit the Keys as a Category 4 hurricane, with top wind of 131 to 153 mph, as soon as late Monday, though there was still hope that the storm would move out into the Gulf of Mexico.

Ivan carried maximum sustained winds near 145 mph, down slightly from 160 mph earlier Thursday.

A steady line of traffic snaked along the northbound Overseas Highway through the Keys, signaling the frightening reality that Florida faces. "It's fun, but you do it 'til you've got to do it," said Jane Fry, who was headed for Lakeland.

The impending storm has led to calls from officials for the public to support the American Red Cross and other charitable organizations. A Red Cross spokesman said the organization's relief effort for Charley was expected to cost about \$50 million and Frances relief could cost twice that.

Eisner plans Disney exit

LONDON — Walt Disney Co. chief executive Michael Eisner will leave the entertainment giant in 2006 when his contract expires, the company confirmed Friday.

Over the past year, Eisner's leadership abilities have been questioned by former Disney board members Roy E. Disney and Stanley Gold, who have led a campaign against Eisner through their Web site, SaveDisney.com.

RV slayings memorial

HOUSTON — A retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, his wife and son — all shot dead in a burning mobile home near Livingston — were remembered during a funeral Mass at a Clear Lake area church.

Edmond "Tres" Mitri Saad III,

45, his wife, Eva Lou Thompson Saad, 47, and their 14-year-old son, Edmond Mitri Saad IV, were found shot to death on Sept. 2. The woman's mother, Beth Thompson, 74, also was found fatally shot in the home at the Escapees RV Park.

Floyd Thompson, 75, is charged with four counts of capital murder in the shootings. He is also suspected of starting the fire.

Virginia executes man

JARRATT, Va. — A man who killed an elderly woman with a metal can and a pair of scissors in a drunken attack eight years ago was executed Thursday by injection.

James Edward Reid, 58, was pronounced dead at Greensboro Correctional Center.

Earlier Thursday, the Supreme Court rejected Reid's final appeal.

From The Associated Press

IN THE WORLD

Jamaica likely next for Ivan

Hurricane nears island after smashing Grenada

BY STEVENSON JACOBS

The Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Hurricane Ivan's deadly winds and monstrous waves bore down on Jamaica on Friday, threatening a direct hit on its densely populated capital and prompting the government to order a half million people to flee coastal areas where roads already are flooded.

In its wake, Ivan left Grenada a wasteland of flattened houses, twisted metal and splintered wood.

The death toll rose Friday to 32 and was expected to increase.

Ivan, a Category 4 hurricane — out of a top scale of 5 — packed winds of 145 mph and could strengthen before striking the 145-mile-long island Friday night or early Saturday, meteorologists said. They warned of "life-threatening" flash floods and mudslides.

The British Royal Navy frigate HMS Richmond, which rushed to Grenada's rescue Wednesday, was speeding to Jamaica along with supply ships. Commander Mike MacCartain told the BBC.

Armed private guards began patrolling against looters in Montego Bay, a resort town of 35,000 where disaster agency official Faye Headley said 3,800 people had been evacuated from low-lying areas.

"Many people have decided not to leave because they are afraid their property will be stolen," Headley said.

In neighboring Haiti on Friday, the storm's fringes forced piles of sand and water up to knee-high into seaside neighborhoods of Les Cayes, a city of 300,000 on the southwest peninsula. Hundreds of residents sought shelter in schools and churches.

The hurricane devastated Grenada on Tuesday, tossing sailboats to shore, tearing apart buildings and setting off frenzies of looting.

"The destruction is worse than I've ever seen," said Michael Steele, a 34-year-old resident whose home was destroyed. "We're left with nothing."

Ivan, already the fiercest hurricane to hit Caribbean islands in a decade, unleashed violent winds, downpours and waves across a



Ransford Robinson carries an unidentified disabled man to a shelter at the National Arena in Kingston, Jamaica, on Friday. Meteorologists warned that the island nation might see "life-threatening" flash floods and mudslides Friday night or early Saturday, when Hurricane Ivan is expected to arrive.

wide area. It killed at least 22 people in Grenada, one in Tobago, one in Venezuela, one Canadian woman in Barbados, and four youngsters in the Dominican Republic swept away by a giant wave Thursday, even though the storm was nearly 200 miles away.

"When dogs interfere with gar-

bage bags and strew the contents all over the place — that's what Grenada looks like," Trinidad leader Patrick Manning said after visiting the island Thursday.

AP reporters Ian James, Harold Quash and Desmond Brown in Grenada, Peter Pengam in Jamaica, Jose Monerero in Dominican Republic and Tony Fraser in Trinidad contributed to this report.

Sudanese: 'Genocide' label will hurt talks

BY GILBERT DA COSTA

The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — The U.S. declaration that Sudan government-allied militiamen have committed genocide in the Darfur region is a "big mistake" that could hinder peace talks and undermine the role of African states mediating the 19-month conflict, Sudan government officials said Friday.

The announcement by Secretary of State Colin Powell on Thursday that the killing, raping and displacement of black Africans by Arab fighters amounts to genocide "is sending a wrong signal" to rebel delegates at Darfur peace talks, said Sudan's deputy foreign minister, Najeib Al-Khair Abdel-Wahab.

Insurgents "will bet on U.N. sanctions, they will want to wait for action to be taken by the U.N. Security Council — and for that reason they will not be forthcoming in negotiations," Abdel-Wahab, a top government negotiator, told reporters.

"Colin Powell is making a big mistake," he said.

Sudan government and rebel envoys have been attending Darfur peace talks in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, since Aug. 23 in an African Union-brokered effort to calm violence that has left 30,000 dead and 1.2 million displaced. The United Nations calls it the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

On Friday, mediators adjourned talks until Tuesday, saying little progress had been made.

Powell's announcement came as the United States pressured the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Sudan's oil industry, among other measures, if the government does not take steps to improve security in Darfur and rein in the militia, known as Janjaweed.

Such sanctions are opposed by China and Pakistan, Security Council members that import Sudanese oil.

The violence in Darfur began when black African tribes rebelled in February 2003, accusing the national government in Khartoum of neglecting their interests.

On Friday, Sudan's Abdel Wahab said the U.S. declaration shows that the country doesn't believe the African Union and the Darfur crisis, thus undermining the bloc's efforts.

"What Colin Powell said also contradicts what the Americans have told us, that they respect the leadership role and engagement of the African Union in the Darfur crisis," he said.

Also Friday, the African Union said its charter would force it to take action against Sudan if the bloc found ongoing genocide, but that no decision had yet been taken.

Associated Press writer Anthony Mitchell in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, contributed to this report.

G-8 talks on Iran

GENEVA — The United States held talks with disarmament officials from major countries Friday as it steps up pressure on Iran to renounce any move toward acquiring nuclear weapons, officials said.

Washington wants the backing of the Group of Eight nations for its attempts to have the International Atomic Energy Agency declare Iran in violation of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

Such a vote by the IAEA board at its three-day meeting in Vienna, Austria, starting Monday, could lead to U.N. Security Council sanctions.

The United States demands that Iran renounce uranium enrichment, which could be used to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran insists it only is interested in nuclear power.

Russia has said it will continue to work with Iran on building its nuclear power program, but says it will ensure that its cooperation can not contribute to a nuclear weapons program.

From The Associated Press

Australia wary of more attacks

Terror group again eyed in Indonesia

BY LELY T. DJUHARI

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Police released a grainy photo Friday of a white delivery truck taken by a security camera just before it blew up outside the Australian Embassy and said they suspect two suicide bombers in the vehicle set off the explosion, killing seven other people.

As details emerged in the attack, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said in Jakarta that Indonesian police had received a mobile phone text message 45 minutes before the bombing, warning that foreign missions in Jakarta would be attacked unless the alleged head of al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah, Abu Bakar Bashir, is freed from prison.

Australian officials said the threat was not passed on to Australian Federal Police until hours after Thursday's bombing. But Indonesian police said they had received no such warning.

"That's not true. Where did Downer get that from?" said Indonesian police spokesman Maj. Gen. Paiman, who goes by a single name.

In Australia, Prime Minister John Howard said another attack in Jakarta was a "distinct possibility." Militants have repeatedly struck foreign targets in Indonesia, the deadliest in 2002 when they bombed nightclubs on Bali, killing 202 people, including many Australians.

"There has been a lot of 'chatter' as the intelligence agencies call it, and a lot of evidence coming forward suggesting it," he said of another attack.



Inspector General Paiman holds up a photo from a security camera Friday in Jakarta, Indonesia. It is said to show the suicide bombers' truck before it exploded Thursday near Australia's embassy in Jakarta.

Bashir is in jail as prosecutors draw up a revised indictment against him for allegedly inspiring his followers to launch attacks.

A claim of responsibility in Jemaah Islamiyah's name was posted Thursday on an Internet site known for carrying extremist Islamic content. Its authenticity could not be verified.

Australian forensics experts and bomb experts joined Indonesian police at the bomb site Friday, marking evidence on the road by putting small orange flags on bits of bomb debris.

Howard has come under fire for sending troops for last year's U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. The war is unpopular in Indonesia, the most populous Muslim nation.

YOUR MONEY

Options college-bound students can bank on

BY TARA SIEGEL BERNARD
Dow Jones Newswires

NEW YORK — For years, you filled your children's lunch boxes with sandwiches and juice boxes. Now, as they head off to college, they need your help filling, or at least setting up, their checking accounts.

With the back-to-school season in full swing, there are a number of banks that are offering student checking accounts and other financial products to help children of bank customers manage their money. But before you send them off to their new university, it's worth getting them a lesson in fiscal responsibility.

"You want to first set up a budget with your child," said Neale S. Godfrey, author of "Money Still Doesn't Grow on Trees: A Parent's Guide To Raising Financially Responsible Teenagers and Young Adults," and chairman of the Children's Financial Network, which provides products and services focused on financial education.

She also recommends that you have your children sit down and make a list of what they think they will need to live, what the costs are, and then do some price checking with them to see if they're actually getting a deal.

"What you want to do is make it a learning experience; don't just set up an account," Godfrey said.

If you're unsure your students can handle the responsibility of a credit-card — which can have



From left, Vivien Boronyak, Haley Lepo, Sheila Healy and Jose Ramirez interact during a get-together of incoming freshmen at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., last week. Banks are working with parents of college freshmen to help set them on the right financial track with student and help checking accounts.

long-standing consequences and mar their credit histories — cash-loaded or debit cards are a good option, because there's only so much they can use, she adds.

Individual banks are rolling out different options, including the following:

■ J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., which recently closed its merger with Bank One, just launched checking accounts geared for chil-

dren of banking customers.

Seventeen to 24-year-olds can open a "College Checking" account which requires no minimum balance, no monthly maintenance fee or below-balance transaction fees for five years as long as the parent maintains a qualifying Bank One or Chase checking account. Other perks include two free withdrawals from an outside bank's ATM per statement cycle,

along with a free debit card and online bill pay. "High School Checking" also is available for students ages 15 to 18, and requires a parent or legal guardian to sign on as a co-owner of the account.

■ U.S. Bancorp offers "Student Checking," which doesn't require a daily balance, has no monthly service fee, and offers four free non-U.S. Bank ATM transactions per month. Its U.S. Bank Check Card, essentially a debit product, is also free, as is Internet Banking and bill payment. The Minneapolis-based bank also offers the U.S. Bank Visa Buxx card, a prepaid card that parents can reload when funds run out. It's safe from carrying cash and students can't run up debt because the funds on the card are limited. The cards are accepted everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted, including online and at the ATM.

The Visa Buxx card also is available through Bank of America Corp., National City Corp. and Wachovia Corp., among others (see visabuxx.com); any costs are charged by the issuing institution, so check with them for any related fees.

■ Wachovia's Free Student Checking Program offers many of the same benefits of the two aforementioned banks, if students link their account with their parent's checking account, they are given 12 free non-Wachovia ATM transactions per month, as well as four withdrawals, four account inquiries and four transfers. It also offers the Campus Card through about 14 participating schools: the single card combines the student's identification, debit and ATM card. Depending on the school, it can also be used to pay for on-campus meals, purchasing books, making copies at the library, as well as for doing laundry and accessing the gym.

Bank of America's CampusEdge Checking can be had with an opening deposit of \$25. It's free for the first six months, or

free for five years if the student's parent has an account or the student has a monthly direct deposit; it costs \$3.95 monthly otherwise. No minimum balance is required, and it includes free online banking with bill pay and a free checking (debit) card. The CampusEdge package also comes with a "Stuff Hapkins" card, which allows students to waive a fee — one-time only — if they make a financial faux pas or incur a non-Bank of America ATM fee. The Charlotte-based bank also offers a Bank of America Student Visa Gold card, with no annual fee, which comes with a Quicken CD-Rom, which helps students learn how to manage their money and credit. It carries an APR of 10.99 percent plus the prime rate.

■ Wells Fargo & Co.'s college checking has a \$3.75 fee, with a \$2 discount for those with direct deposit, and its waived completely for students with parents maintaining Wells deposit accounts. Students can also apply for the Wells Fargo College Visa Card.

■ Citigroup Inc.'s College Student Account, which is available to students at schools registered with Citiciti, costs \$3.00 a month, unless it's linked to a parent's account (kids can't see their parents' account information). There is a monthly electronic deposit, or there is a balance of \$1,500. Fees are waived regardless of balance and banking activity during the summer. Also included in the ATM debit card, free online bill payment, overdraft protection, a complimentary Citiciti financial check-up, and an optional American Airlines Advantage Debit Card which carries an annual fee, depending on what type of card you choose. Visit Citibank.com for participating schools.

While many options appear attractive, be sure to read the fine print and make sure both you and your child understand the fees — and consequences — tied to such accounts and cards.

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week	Low	High	Volume	% Chg
18,153.1	17,974.7	18,214.1	1,200,100	+0.3%
3,212.46	2,668.66	3,212.46	1,193,811	+0.5%
253.66	242.50	253.66	1,193,811	+0.5%
6,788.12	5,624.48	6,788.12	1,193,811	+0.5%
1,278.81	980.94	1,278.81	1,193,811	+0.5%
1,250.82	980.94	1,250.82	1,193,811	+0.5%
1,163.23	990.36	1,163.23	1,193,811	+0.5%
507.89	349.36	507.89	1,193,811	+0.5%
696.42	482.13	696.42	1,193,811	+0.5%
11,371.14	9,955.20	11,371.14	1,193,811	+0.5%

NYSE				
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Vol	High	Low	% Chg
Lucas	42,961	1.12	1.14	+0.2
Intel	30,888	11.77	11.84	+0.6
Microsoft	29,815	26.17	26.14	-0.1
Verizon	28,719	24.35	24.31	-0.2
General	25,919	11.28	11.21	-0.6
Merck	21,787	11.48	11.45	-0.3
Medtronic	21,629	16.28	16.36	+0.5
Johnson	21,188	11.01	11.01	0.0
McDonald	19,489	11.32	11.31	-0.1
IBM	19,257	11.35	11.35	0.0

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
High	Low	High	Low	% Chg
38.12	38.12	38.12	38.12	0.0
38.12	38.12	38.12	38.12	0.0
38.12	38.12	38.12	38.12	0.0
38.12	38.12	38.12	38.12	0.0
38.12	38.12	38.12	38.12	0.0
38.12	38.12	38.12	38.12	0.0
38.12	38.12	38.12	38.12	0.0
38.12	38.12	38.12	38.12	0.0
38.12	38.12	38.12	38.12	0.0

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
High	Low	High	Low	% Chg
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	0.0
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	0.0
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	0.0
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	0.0
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	0.0
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	0.0
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	0.0
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	0.0
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	0.0

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Sept. 11)	107.90
South Korean won (Sept. 10)	1,171.00
British pound	\$1.205
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.376
British pound	\$1.718
Canada (Dollar)	1.368
Denmark (Krone)	5.74
Egypt (Pound)	6.125
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.214
Indonesia (Rupiah)	20,493
Israel (Shekel)	4.505
Japan (Yen)	107.90
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.347
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.641
Philippines (Peso)	56.96
Portugal (Escudo)	200.48
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6994
South Korea (Won)	1,145.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.480
Thailand (Baht)	54.62
United States (Dollar)	1.00

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Philippines (Peso)	56.96
Portugal (Escudo)	200.48
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6994
South Korea (Won)	1,145.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.480
Thailand (Baht)	54.62
United States (Dollar)	1.00

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Age-friendly home fixes

- Flooring: Choose a low-pile carpet. It's easier on wheelchairs and walkers.
- Cabinets: Replace knobs with bar-shaped drawer-pulls. They're much easier to grasp.
- Door knobs: Install levered handles in place of round knobs.
- Kitchen makeover: You might also consider repositioning kitchen appliances to a pedestal or wheelchair-accessible. Raise the stove and dishwasher so that a wheelchair could fit beneath the open door.
- Shower: Make a shower or grab bars are cheaper than a roll-in shower, won't reduce your home's resale value and come in enough variety to be attractive and functional.

Prime rate 4.50
Discount rate 2.50
Federal funds market rate 1.00
3-month bill 1.64
30-year Treasury 5.25
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com



	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	69	50	Mogadishu	85	74
Dakar	89	78	Nairobi	79	54
Freetown	85	74	Rabat	85	64
Kinshasa	86	69	Trinoli	94	66

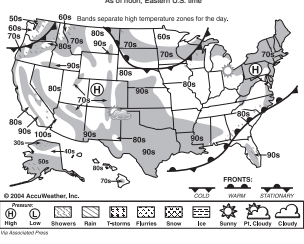
	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	72	55	Manila	90	75
Bahrain	102	82	Mexico City	66	55
Beijing	83	58	Montreal	71	57
Beirut	83	73	Riyadh	110	78
Bermuda	86	76	Rio de Jan	79	67
Caracas	93	80	Seoul	69	65
Helsinki	68	49	Sofia	68	41
Hong Kong	88	76	Sydney	70	46
Johann	80	60	Tokyo		

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Hyderabad
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STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Tanker accident

FL **LITTLE TORCH KEY** — A tanker truck ran off a highway, down an embankment and into shallow ocean water, leaking fuel and closing the main road through the Florida Keys for several hours.

A half-mile section of U.S. Highway 1 was closed because of the danger posed by the truck's 3,000 gallons of gasoline, Monroe County sheriff's spokesman Greg Artman said.

Traffic backed up on both sides as authorities decided to keep the road closed for about four hours, entirely blocking access to the lower Keys.

A Monroe County sheriff's captain saw a sheen on the water where the truck ended up on its side, and crews set up a floating boom to contain the leak, Artman said.

The driver, whose name was not released, was sent to a hospital with minor injuries.

A good neighbor

CO **DENVER** — Police congratulated a good Samaritan who climbed a ladder to rescue a neighbor screaming for his life.

Kevin Jackson, 43, an unemployed database administrator, said he went to the woman's rescue because "a lot of guys who are bigger than I am were standing around not doing anything."

Jackson spotted an apparently discarded ladder, propped it against the open second-floor window of the apartment building next to his and hustled up to help the woman, a complete stranger, from a knife-wielding assailant.

The woman, who had tried to barricade herself in her bedroom, fled down the ladder, Jackson said. Her Dalmatian fell off the ladder in its escape, injuring its right front paw.

Urban cowboys ride bus

CA **SAN FRANCISCO** — Everest is for wimps.

Four young men armed with maps, trail mix, power beverages and great stamina have conquered San Francisco's bus system.

Some said it couldn't be done. Others didn't much care. But in about three days, Gil Hackel, 19, Nate Maas, 20, Trammell Scroggs, 22, and Zhenya Warshavsky, 21, rode the length of every possible line.

That's about 60 routes.

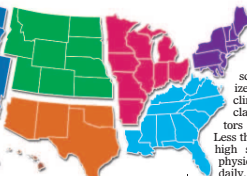
They set no Guinness record, advocated no presidential candidate, raised no money for Third World children. Most bus drivers and passengers were unaware of the feat they were witnessing.

The men said they did it because, like Everest, it was there.

"Do you think anyone's ever done this before?" a sleep-deprived Hackel asked.

Student falls to death

NY **NEW YORK** — A 23-year-old graduate student died at New York University jumped to her death on campus.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

the sixth such incident involving an NYU student in the past year.

University spokesman Josh Taylor said the woman, a second-year graduate student at the school of performing and media arts, "died as a result of an apparently intentional fall" from the Tisch School of the Arts.

Police identified her as Joann Mitchell Levy, 23. She lived with her parents nearby in Greenwich Village, police spokeswoman Detective Mindy Diaz said.

The NYU community's "deepest sympathies go out to the student's family and friends," Taylor said.

Five other NYU students have jumped to their deaths in the past year, and the medical examiner ruled four of the deaths as suicides, Taylor said.

The medical examiner ruled one death as accidental, related to the student's use of hallucinogenic mushrooms.

\$18M food court

IN **WEST LAFAYETTE** — Purdue University has opened a \$18 million freestanding dining court that's open to students, faculty and the public. Eight restaurants are included in the two-story, 62,325-square-foot building that seats up to 800 people.



Surfin' West Va.

Daniel Wilson, 13, of Huntington, W.Va., surfs in floodwater at Ritter Park in Huntington, W.Va. Severe weather from Hurricane Frances forced water from Four Pole Creek to overflow into Ritter Park, creating large pools of water.

Less gym

AZ **PHOENIX** — Pressure on schools to score higher on standardized tests has led to a decline in physical education classes in Arizona, educators and health experts say. Less than a quarter of Arizona high school students attend physical education classes daily. Children in elementary schools attend PE class an average of twice a week.

Mayor gets ovation

MA **BOSTON** — Mayor Thomas Menino received a standing ovation from local union leaders at an annual Labor Day breakfast a year after he was excluded from the same event because of a dispute with the city's police union.

The conflict led to delays in the renovation of the Democratic National Convention site and raised the specter of pickets during the political gathering. The contract dispute was resolved days before the convention began.

More telecommuting

GA **ATLANTA** — About 1,500 state employees are working from home at least one day a month.

Two years ago, Gov. Sonny Perdue said that by 2005 he wanted 25,000 state workers, or roughly 25 percent of the state government's work force, teleworking monthly.

Budget woes have limited the program lately to include only employees with their own home computers, a spokesman for Perdue said.

Twisters on upswing

IA **DES MOINES** — Cleanup continued after at least seven tornadoes touched down Sunday night, breaking the record for the number of tornadoes in Iowa in one year. The tornadoes damaged trees, power poles and farm buildings, but no injuries or deaths were reported. The National Weather Service counted as many as 115 twisters in Iowa this year. The previous record was 105.

Thrift stores shutting

OR **PORTLAND** — The Saint Vincent de Paul Society began a \$900,000 campaign. The society closed all six of its thrift stores in the past month. The agency's director said it needs a cash infusion before the end of September or it will have to close remaining operations that include a food bank and financial assistance programs.

Shorter semester

KY **BOWLING GREEN** — Western Kentucky University plans an abbreviated January term starting in 2006 to give students another way to complete course requirements. The new term will feature mainly field courses, online courses, special certificate programs, some make-up courses and other selected offerings. The fall and spring semesters, now 16 weeks long, will be reduced to 15 weeks.



Rain, rain, go away Adjunct professor Surya Srinivasan of Monroe Township, N.J., uses a plastic bag to try to stay dry as she walks through the parking lot into Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg Township, N.J.



Spiny creature A saddleback caterpillar chews a leaf of a Eucalyptus tree in an herb garden in Birmingham, Ala. Identified by a purplish saddle with a bright green blanket around it and prickly horns, the inch long caterpillars are pretty to look at but the hairs are hollow and connected to poison glands.



Selling sunshine

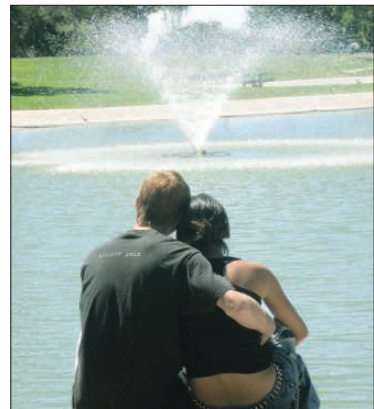
Market in Oxford, Miss.

Sydney Shaw gathers sunflowers to give to a customer at the Farmers



Refreshing spray
San Francisco.

Kyra, a peregrine falcon, is cooled off with some water mist by education specialist Jessie Bushell, left, on a hot, sunny day at the San Francisco Zoo in San Francisco.



Romantic moment

Zack Davenport, 19, left, holds his girlfriend, Sumire Kimura, 18, in front of a water spout at Young Park in Las Cruces, N.M.



Martian madness

Maresa Searls, 6, wears a Martian outfit as her father, Matt Searls, carries her during the children's parade before the start of the main Labor Day parade in Holsinger, Kan.



Sacred sunset

The setting sun descends behind the facade of the Iglesia Bautista Central in McAllen, Texas.

Man rescued from gorge

VT RICHMOND — A disabled man was rescued after falling into Huntington Gorge.

Mark Dessert, 51, of Pennsylvania suffers from multiple sclerosis and is hearing impaired. Witnesses said he was taking photographs at the gorge when he fell about 40 feet off a cliff into the water, WCAX-TV reported.

Dessert was able to cling to a rock until rescue crews arrived.

They pulled him from the water about an hour later and treated him for minor injuries.

Official sues opponent

FL MIAMI — Rep. Alcee Hastings sued his vanquished rival in the Democratic primary, asserting that his opponent used his weekly newspaper to launch libelous attacks against him.

Hastings said in a lawsuit that Keith Clayborne, publisher of The Broward Times, a Fort Lauderdale-based newspaper, had accused him of bribery, conspiracy, disrespect for the public trust, and showing leniency toward drug traffickers while serving on the federal bench.

The lawsuit, filed in Broward County, seeks more than \$50,000 in damages. It includes excerpts from a column Clayborne wrote in the newspaper's May 28-June 3, 2004, edition that refer to charges of bribery made against Hastings two decades ago when he was a federal judge. Hastings was charged in an FBI bribery sting but acquitted by a federal jury in 1983.

Monorail closed again

NV LAS VEGAS — The Las Vegas monorail was closed one day after it reopened when a piece of a train's undercarriage fell off and landed in a busy street.

No one was injured when a slip disk came loose and fell about 25 feet to the pavement, monorail spokesman Todd Walker said. The 6-inch disk weighing one to two pounds first struck a power rail, causing electrical arcing but no serious damage to the track.

The monorail had reopened after being closed for six days following an incident in which a 60-pound wheel fell off one of the trains.

Immigrant school planned

TX HOUSTON — Houston school officials have proposed a school designed specifically for immigrants, including flexible yearlong schedules, accelerated credit programs and weekend classes.

"Many of these students walk into our high schools and know little or no English," interim Houston superintendent Abe Saavedra said at Lee High School, where students from 70 countries speak 42 languages.

The proposed school, which will be voted on by the Houston Independent School District's board.

Cockfighting banned

HI WAILUKU — Cockfighting is not a native Hawaiian cultural practice protected by the

state constitution, a judge ruled in rejecting a lawsuit filed by two Maui men.

The lawsuit, filed in May against the state and Maui County, contended that cockfighting should be legal because native Hawaiian ancestors engaged in it. Daniel Lealoha Kahaikupuna and Frederick Ponce argued that the state constitution protects native Hawaiian traditions and practices, and cockfighting should be included.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Jane Lovell, in arguing to have the suit dismissed, said cockfighting has been illegal since at least 1884, during the reign of King David Kalakaua.

Man sells skull on eBay

CA HUNTINGTON BEACH — Youthful indiscretion and the power of eBay have landed a man in hot water with the feds.

Thirty-five years ago, Jerry David Hasson, 55, found a prehistoric skull in the sands of Hawaii; today he faces up to five years in prison and a possible \$250,000 fine for allegedly violating the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act by selling the skull on eBay.

Hasson's high bidder turned out to be John Fryar, a special agent with the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Hasson is expected to be arraigned.

Tribes' claims dispute

CO DENVER — Two Oklahoma Indian tribes that are offering to drop their claim 27 million acres in Colorado in exchange for approval to build a casino near Denver don't have a valid claim to those lands, Gov. Bill Owens said.

Owens, at a staff briefing for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., said Interior Department lawyers and the state attorney general determined that the Cheyenne and Arapaho claim, which covers much of the northeastern corner of Colorado including Denver and Colorado Springs, was resolved 40 years ago.

Owens said Congress in 1891 ratified an agreement in which the tribes exchanged their Colorado lands for their reservation in Oklahoma. He also said the Indian Claims Commission in 1965 paid \$15 million to settle further tribal land claims.

Father gets probation

NJ CAMDEN — A postal worker was sentenced to a year of probation for causing the deaths of his two young sons by leaving them in the back of his sport-utility vehicle in midday heat.

Authorities said Derrick Strothers, 39, dropped off his wife at her job, then headed to the East Orange post office where he worked.

His sons — Derrick Jr., 2, and Dylan, 1 — were left strapped in their car seats in the SUV with the windows closed for about 2½ hours.

The U.S. Attorney's Office took over the case because the children died on federal property.

Stories and photos from wire services

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Civilian haircuts optional

In that past week or so, I have noticed two letters from soldiers at Camp Arifjan — "How civilians appear to others" (Sept. 3) and "Civilians in uniform" (Sept. 7) — complaining about how civilians wore the desert camouflage uniform. One was kind enough to acknowledge the contributions made by the civilians in the area of responsibility. The other complained that apparently civilians thought that haircuts and showers, among other things, were optional.

Both said civilians needed to remember they represented America too. These two letters remind me of letters in Stars and Stripes a number of years ago when it was the desk jockeys in Saigon who complained about the guys in the bush wore their uniforms when they came into town. They, too, said we were representing America by the way we looked. Those desk jockeys in Saigon did provide a valuable service to the war effort, much as the noncommissioned officers at Camp Arifjan I am sure.

Well, now I am a civilian in this AOR and I wear the DCU. It is clean and pressed and the buttons are generally buttoned. I shower every day, something I couldn't always do in another AOR. In answer to the latter writer: Yes, haircuts are optional for a civilian and no backlines prima donna is going to tell us how to wear it. I used to say I was fighting a war to ensure people could make a personal choice and express themselves the way they wanted to. My, how times have changed in this Army of One.

Mark Dignan

Camp Anacoda, Iraq

Disrespect for the DCU

Department of the Army Pamphlet DA690-47 Civilian Discipline and Mobilization Guide plainly states that civilians are to wear their uniforms according to AR670-1. The problem is I see it is that most of the civilians I am deployed with have not been in the military, and were never trained how to properly wear their uniforms, or even made aware of the requirement, and upon arrival at Camp Arif-

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Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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Jan were told they could go without their hats, etc.

I assure everyone I do not condone this, but I understand both sides. We have rules in place, but until they are enforced, and people are taught how to wear them, what do we do? Bottom line: Disrespect for the uniform is the same as disrespect for the flag and what it stands for.

John D. Wood
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Toe the line, or else

All you so-called "Republican" soldiers out there, pay attention: The latest right-wing attack on a combat vet's record has this vet saying "Enough." What is being done to John Kerry is the same thing done to John McCain and Max Cleland — trashing their service with Bush family money and connections, while at the same time pleasing innocence.

The Republicans talk the talk of being pro-military, until you differ from their political agenda. So you guys and gals remember they love you as long as you applaud the party line, which is that President Bush is some great leader, morally perfect, protector of freedom, righter of wrongs, the second coming, etc.

What makes this sadder and more tragic is it comes from people who for the most part back those who did not serve when they had the chance to do so. President Bush's daddy got him in the National Guard when the Guard was a way out of going to Vietnam. Dick Cheney did not serve. Paul Wolfowitz did not serve. John Ashcroft did not serve. Funny these same "hawks" are the ones who did not hesitate to put your butt on the line for the mythical weapons of mass destruction.

By the way, before I am dismissed as some anti-American liberal wingnut, My butt has been in the line of fire in the uniform of my country. So has my father's in Vietnam, my brothers' in the Gulf War and Iraq, and my son's 15 months in the Sunni Triangle. I don't toe the line. Enough's enough. Yote.

Floyd Kizile Jr.
Wurzburg, Germany

Bush acted correctly

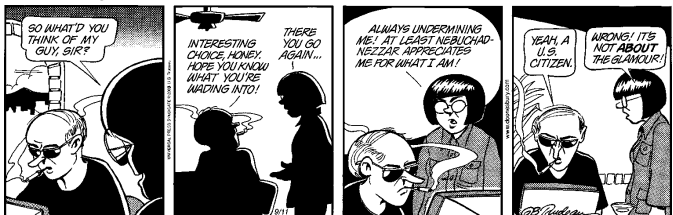
The writer of the Aug. 27 letter "Bush's behavior on 9/11" criticizing President Bush's actions on Sept. 11, 2001, has the "facts," but that's all. When told about the first crash (into the World Trade Center), and during the quick conference in the school hallway, the information he receives is that it's an accident.

Bush then moves into a classroom where young schoolchildren are going through a reading lesson. It was during this time that Bush was told of the second crash (into the World Trade Center), and his aide states, "We are under attack." The president, instead of jumping up and scaring the children, calmly has them resume their lesson for approximately 10 minutes and politely and tactfully makes his exit.

The other fact is that these were not missiles, but rather commercial planes with human beings on them. Can the writer give an order that easily to shoot down a plane that is carrying fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, grandparents and babies? If he can without any thought process, then he's a monster.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Ahles
Camp Carroll, South Korea

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



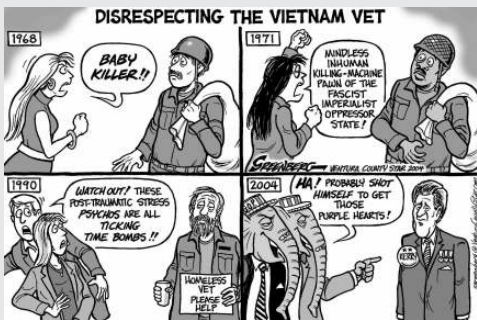
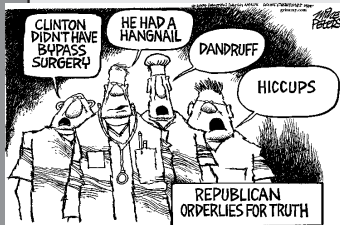
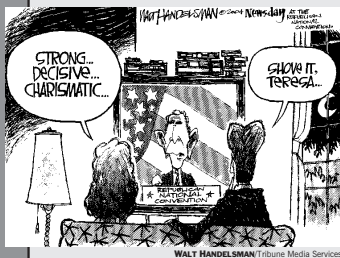
BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Mallard Fillmore



Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



FACES 'N' PLACES

Carmen Electra models the way

Strut aside, Tyra, Carmen Electra is hunting for a few models of her own.

The actress-model will host Bravo's upcoming reality competition "Manhunt: The Search for America's Most Gorgeous Male Model," the cable network announced Wednesday in New York.

"Carmen Electra has just the right mix of energy, magnetism and fun to be the ideal host and guide for the young, novice competitors on 'Manhunt,'" said Bravo President Lauren Zalaznick.

Electra will be flanked by judges Bruce Hulse and Marisa Miller, both professional models themselves. For eight episodes, 15 men will compete in a series of challenges in hopes of snapping up a one-year contract with the IMG modeling agency.

Couric boosts colon cancer awareness

"Today" show co-host Katie Couric came to New York Fashion Week to make colorectal cancer screening more fashionable.

Couric, speaking on behalf of the Entertainment Industry Foundation's National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance, said Wednesday that while hemlines go up and down and animal prints go in and out, a woman's body is here to stay.

"You want [your bodies] to look as good on the inside as out," she said at a news conference in the tents at Bryant Park in midtown Manhattan, where many top designers are previewing their spring 2005 collections for retailers, media and fashion fans.

Couric was joined by model Iman, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" star Nia Vardalos and designer Carmen Marc Valvo, himself a colon cancer survivor.

Grandma inspires new clothing line

— While models strut their way down the catwalk at New York Fashion Week, a new star has announced her "bootylicious" arrival on the fashion scene: Beyoncé.

The singer and her mother, Tina Knowles, announced Wednesday the birth of their new clothing line, to be called "The House of Dereon." The line is named after Beyoncé's grandmother, Agnes Dereon, whose work as a skilled seamstress inspired the two generations of stylish women.

"To me, this is the greatest way to enter into the fashion world," Beyoncé said in a statement. "Inspired by my grandmother, working with my mother and pursuing a dream we have all had for many years — establishing an important fashion company."

The trademark for the line will be "Couture. Kick. Soul." It will be produced by the Knowles' company, Beyoncé Productions, and is expected to hit stores in fall 2005.

\$80K to help troubled schools

Hootie and the Blowfish have donated \$80,000 to eight troubled South Carolina school districts.

"The children in our state are our best resource and our most hopeful investment," said lead singer Darius Rucker, a South Carolina native. "From new computers to books to their libraries, we are going to help the students of these school districts get the tools they need to further their education."

The schools have requested the money to go toward classroom items such as computers, overhead projectors, VCRs, tape recorders, maps and globes.

The Grammy-winning group, whose hit songs include "Only Wanna Be With You" and "Hold My Hand," also will hold their second annual Hootie and the Blowfish Homegrown Concert on Oct. 8 at the Family Circle Tennis Center in Charleston.

From The Associated Press



From left, Hootie and the Blowfish members Dean Felber, Jim Sonefeld, Mark Bryan and Darius Rucker.



Actor Jet Li poses for a portrait in front of a Rodin sculpture at the Museum of Art in Los Angeles. Li puts aside his Hollywood action career for the Mandarin-language martial arts adventure "Hero," set in ancient China that aims for the audience that made the foreign-film "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" a U.S. hit.

Jet Li redefines heroism as 'love your enemy'

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jet Li wants to touch your soul before he kicks your butt.

The Hong Kong action star says too many martial-arts movies ignore heart and emotion in favor of vengeance and gore.

He said his latest film to hit U.S. theaters, the Mandarin-language "Hero," is an antidote to other by-the-numbers action movies, an epic story about ancient China that aims to mesmerize moviegoers.

"We make the movements like a dream, more romantic, look pretty and [characters] have respect. It's not like old Hong Kong films — two guys fighting, destroy the table, everything in the room broken and destroyed. Here it's more classic," Li said, clutching a string of Buddhist prayer beads while sitting on an outdoor patio of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art before a recent preview screening.

In "Hero," set circa 200 B.C., Li plays a nameless ranger who receives an audience with the King of Qin, a historical figure who became China's first emperor, oversaw the building of the Great Wall and conquered six other warring states.

A trio of assassins from those regions — Sky, Broken Sword and Snow — have long tried to murder the king, and Li's character is there to relate how he defeated Sky (Donnie Yen) with mystical swordsmanship and used the love between Broken Sword (Tony Leung Chiu-Wai) and Snow (Maggie Cheung) to turn them against each other.

In "Hero," human beings hover over placid mountain lakes, dart toward each other faster than light, clash swords with a thousand marauding soldiers and deflect impossible attacks under a sky blackened by flying arrows.

"We talk about martial arts having three levels," Li said in broken English. "The first level we talk about the physical: Sword on your hand is part of your body. You use like

it's your arm. The second part, you don't [really] have a sword but the sword in your heart. Before the physical contact, maybe you can scare them. Maybe you can use imagination, talking. Make them afraid."

"Third level, the highest level," he added. "You love your enemy."

In other words, mercy is courage. But is that what action film fans want? Li says they do, but Hollywood is too timid to give it to them.

He points to the success of the similarly operating fight film "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," a Mandarin-language drama that debuted in the U.S. market in 2000 and earned nearly \$130 million.

What's more, Li said, is that many action fans already love the movie. The movie debuted in China in 2002, and DVDs of "Hero" have made their way from Asia and Europe to the United States, where the movie is copied and traded.

The 41-year-old actor, who spent two decades as a Hong Kong star before making the transition to Hollywood in 1998's "Lethal Weapon 4," also sees this as a transition for him.

"I made more than 30 movies, most of them commercial action films: Good guy, got a problem, learning martial arts, come back, revenge, kill the bad guy. Lot of that," he said. "I want to find some movies to make that's different."

In "Hero," Li said director Zhang Yimou wanted to explore "what kind of person can become hero" within the framework of fighting, politics, romance and jealousy. Is it the conquering king? The assassins? The killer of the assassins? After having hits with the American "Kiss of the Dragon," "Romeo Must Die" and "The One," Li was advised against forging his usual salary to return to China and star in a Mandarin-language movie.

But he liked the philosophical story, and said the script made him cry twice.

Li hopes that movie and "Hero" will help him put the "artist" back into "martial artist."

Horoscope

The moon joins Venus in the sign of the lion. Our emotions are bigger than life, and the way we present ourselves reflects that outrageousness. Many will get dressed up and go out as almost costumed versions of themselves. Conversational topics are funny, exaggerated and perhaps comically untrue—but never dull.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 11). This year, you'll see everything from a different point of view and make new choices because of this—but, of course, you still employ your signature style. Relationships grow stronger during the fall. Special training in November helps you improve your financial picture. Get backing for creative projects in January. Love signs for March and Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you get an inkling about something, follow it! Ignoring your intuition is tantamount to agreeing to get exactly what you don't want. Loved ones need you for encouragement. Find the good in their situation, and point it out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 21). If an investment is too complicated to be explained, it's probably too complicated to pay off. Singles find love while running an errand. Couples avoid arguing by deciding who is going to shoulder a responsibility.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're favored to win. Reinforce the belief when you are most tempted to think of success as something that was meant for others. How you use your leisure time is crucial. Get as much enjoyment as you can.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You enjoy learning, so avoid giving the impression that you know it all. Others will delight you with insights! Think of ways to make your business less dependent on your constant attention. Find help you can trust.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Accept the fact that a relationship is either growing or shrinking—there's no in

between. Find new ways to contribute. You're getting more specific about what you will and won't do in the name of love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Work to get rid of the concept of "someday." Why not make your dreams come true today?

The "how" part isn't as impossible as it seems. The resolution to take action will ignite your mind to think of ways to reach your goal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're exercising your rights. This day includes a lot of saying "no" to people who are hard to say "no" to. Practice finding things to

like about people, especially the ones who are pretty much unlikeable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Confidence is related to getting excited about life. You're allowing yourself too much run-up time for a project, which only serves to create more obstacles in your head than really exist. Instead of getting ready, get going.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A decision is made without your consultation. Keep your poise, and use charm to let everyone know you can't be pushed around. All works to your advantage in long run. Fantastic love is your rock of support.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). One positive move begets another. Joining health-club classes may help you stop procrastination in other areas. Singles: The perfect person doesn't exist. That said, keep looking for the one who is just right for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Handle those dangling ends and unfinished tasks. If it seems like there's never any rest, you're onto something. A breakthrough is coming, so don't stop now. The brightest ideas come in the evening.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Carefully plan your finances—you can turn a little into enough to have that car or house. In matters of love, show that you have every intention of compromising; you'll still get what you want in the end.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



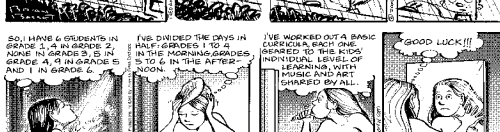
Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



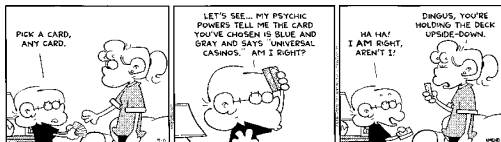
Better or Worse



Peanuts



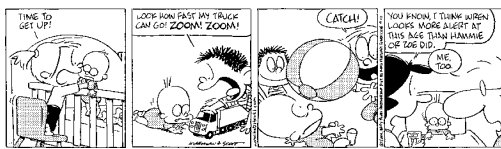
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



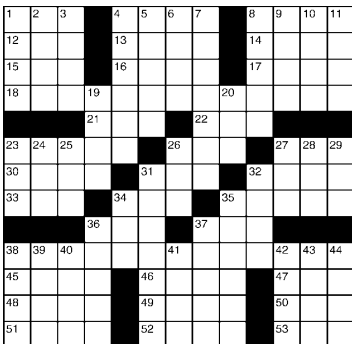
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Tibetan beast
- 4 Lend a sly hand
- 8 Pop
- 12 Yalie
- 13 "Holy cow!"
- 14 Votties
- 15 Ally McBeal's field
- 16 Kachina worshipper
- 17 Like — of bricks
- 18 1998 Joe Klein book
- 21 Chowderhead
- 22 1,000 pounds
- 23 Characteristic
- 26 Gibson or Brooks
- 27 Support system?
- 30 Make
- 31 DIY buy
- 32 Incursion
- 33 Storm center
- 34 Make better
- 35 Small jazz band
- 36 Have a bug
- 37 "Eureka!"
- 38 Jailhouse newbie
- 45 Utter defeat
- 46 Take the bait
- 47 JFK info
- 48 Mrs. Lindbergh
- 49 Mid-month date
- 50 Stern disciplinarian?
- 51 Addict
- 52 Conservative
- 53 Commandment pronoun

Down

- 1 Squeal
- 2 Winged
- 3 New Zealander
- 4 Shocked
- 5 Loutish sorts
- 6 Get a glimpse of measure
- 7 Copse
- 8 Resell for huge profits
- 9 "— be in England ..."
- 10 "Let's Make a Deal" option
- 11 Botanical bristles
- 19 Common street name
- 20 Tin Man's need
- 23 Golf-bag gizmo
- 24 Shaft of light
- 25 "All the Things You —"
- 26 Cake maker's shortcut
- 27 Emeril's expletive
- 28 Umbrella part
- 29 Commotion
- 31 Computer-info measure
- 32 Reddish steed
- 34 Healthy
- 35 Of poor quality
- 36 Daisy lookalike
- 37 Hunting
- 38 Lady of the Hues
- 39 Charged bits
- 40 Mysterious character
- 41 Faithful pooch
- 42 Skilled
- 43 Leave a lasting impression
- 44 Suggestive

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-11

CRYPTOQUIP

F YAHFARA FM BFNVM
 YA MVA KTZA MVTM T
 ETMKVBQTQAW FZ KSJZMTJMHX

ESWQFJN SRAW MFBA
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ALL THOSE REALLY
 BAD REPORTS ABOUT SPRAY CANS ARE
 ENOUGH TO SCAEROSOL TO DEATH!
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T



War Is Tough on Families

Military life has enough challenges without worrying about how your loved ones will contact you... especially during times of conflict. I know, because I grew up in a military family and served as a Navy Admiral.

You can count on the American Red Cross to help you wherever you go. Whether you're at sea, or on an installation, we can help your loved ones back home get messages to you, or from you, in case of emergency. We can also help you through counseling and other needed assistance.

The Red Cross was there for my family, and we'll be there for yours. In fact, we support thousands of military families each year.

For more information, or to learn how you can help, please contact your local Red Cross or visit www.redcross.org. Thank you.

Marsha Evans

Marsha Evans
President and CEO, American Red Cross
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)



American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

Kenseth wins shorter IROC

NASCAR driver controls all-star series' first race on track less than a mile

BY HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Matt Kenseth turned the all-star International Race of Champions series into a one-star event Thursday night.

Taking the lead on the sixth of 90 laps, Kenseth raced comfortably in front the rest of the way, making a decisive display of prowess on the final restart with 30 laps to go and leaving the field in the distance.

"If you can get up front ... and keep it on the bottom in front of the guys, it's very difficult for them to pass you," Kenseth said of the three-quarter-mile, D-shaped oval at Richmond International Raceway.

"My car drove the same the whole race and it was a lot of fun."

It was the first victory for Kenseth in the series that pits drivers from stock car and open-wheel series in identically prepared cars, and he made it look as if he was racing a premium stock car against go-karts.

The race also marked the first time the IROC series ran on a track shorter than a mile, prompting speculation that it would feature the bumping and banging typical of NASCAR's short-track events.

It never happened. Kenseth won by 2.759 seconds, with Ryan Newman second, followed by Kurt Busch, Jimmie Johnson and Kevin Harvick, an all-NASCAR top-five.

All the drama came in the fight for second. "It was a great battle, just with us three," Busch said of the duel for position he had with Johnson and Newman over the last 30 laps, after Kenseth pulled away from a scheduled caution designed to bunch the field.

"It seemed like Kenseth got out front, had it dialed in," said Busch, the 2003 champion. "I think he's a short-track guy. Kenseth's awesome."

Newman had fun, too, despite not contending for the victory.

"We had some good door handle to door handle racing out there," he said. "That's all you can ask for here at Richmond."



RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

Matt Kenseth celebrates his victory in the International Race of Champions round at Richmond International Raceway on Thursday in Richmond, Va.

More surprising, he said, was the absence of contact.

"I don't think I ever touched anybody the entire night, and nobody touched me. It was probably the least impact we've had all year," he said.

Scott Sharp of the Indy Racing League, who led the first five laps, was sixth, followed by NASCAR driver J.J. Yeley, the Indy's Helio Castroneves and Scott Dixon and the World of Outlaws' Danny Lasoski.

The race was the third of four in the annual series, which this year offers \$1.9 million in prize money, including a \$1 million winner's check.

The final race is Oct. 30 in Atlanta, and Newman will go there the leader with 50 points, four more than Kenseth and Johnson.

Harvick is fourth with 43 points, and Busch is fifth with 39.

Kenseth's victory was the seventh in the last eight IROC races for NASCAR drivers, a string ended in this year's second event when Lasoski led all 67 laps and won at Texas.

Newman won the opener at Daytona, a race in which Kenseth crashed.

Musgrave holds off teammate McMurray

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Ted Musgrave held all but 10 laps and held off teammate Kyle McMurray in an aborted two-lap sprint to the finish Thursday night to win the Kroger 200 Craftsman Truck Series race.

The race, forced to go extra laps when a caution came out with two laps left, appeared to set up as a classic duel between the teammates, but McMurray's chances ended when Matt Crafton spun on the first lap of the restart, bringing out another caution that ended it after 209 laps.

Under series rules, one attempt must be made at a two-lap finish under green, but a caution during that dash allows it to end under the yellow.

"Everything kind of fell my way," a relieved Musgrave said.

It was Musgrave's second victory this season, the 15th of his career and may have been twice saved by the flags signaling trouble on the track.

Two-time defending champion Tony Stewart, who started 10th



seeking his third victory in four career starts in the series, moved his Chevrolet to third with about 45 laps to go, but couldn't challenge the leaders.

"I had a blast," Stewart said after finishing third. "These guys love a little competition and the love of talent for the drivers just keeps going up. ... They don't make it easy on you, that's for sure."

Todd Bodine finished fourth, the top Toyota.

Kahne claims Busch pole

RICHMOND, Va. — Impressive rookie Casey Kahne started what he hopes will be an uplifting weekend Thursday night, winning his first pole of the season in 22 tries in NASCAR's Busch Series.

Kahne, 24, a five-time runner-up in the Nextel Cup series this season, turned a lap at 127.678 mph on the three-quarter-

ter-mile Richmond International Raceway, edging Kyle Busch for the top position.

Kahne is hoping it's only the start at Richmond, where Friday night's Emerson 250 is just a warm-up for Saturday night's Chevy Rock & Roll 400.

Kahne will start that Nextel Cup race ninth in the points, trying to stay in the top 10 and keep his spot in the sport's 10-race play-off.

"Getting the pole is definitely a big deal to me," he said. "If it will help our Cup race on Saturday — it wouldn't hurt it. I think it will help a little bit with what the track does. I'll know that."

Busch, meantime, has his own points goal — closing a 95-point deficit to Busch leader Martin Truex Jr. in the series' last nine races.

Busch got off to a good start with a lap at 127.179 mph.

"We didn't quite get it the way we needed to to have a pole-winning run," Busch said. "That's all right. Casey Kahne, he ran an awesome lap. I didn't think we were going to be able to beat him anyway."

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

	East	West	South	North	West
New England	1	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0
Miami	0	0	0	0	0
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	0	0
Houston	0	0	0	0	0
Jacksonville	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	0	0
Baltimore	0	0	0	0	0
Cincinnati	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0
Denver	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas City	0	0	0	0	0
Oakland	0	0	0	0	0
San Diego	0	0	0	0	0

National Conference

	East	West	South	North	West
Dallas	0	0	0	0	0
N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0
Atlanta	0	0	0	0	0
Carolina	0	0	0	0	0
New Orleans	0	0	0	0	0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit	0	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0
San Francisco	0	0	0	0	0
Seattle	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0

Thursday's games	
New England 27, Indianapolis 24	
Saturday's games	
Tennessee at Miami, 1 p.m.	
Sunday's games	
Detroit at Chicago, 1 p.m.	
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.	
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 1 p.m.	
Houston at St. Louis, 1 p.m.	
Tampa Bay at Washington, 1 p.m.	
Seattle at New Orleans, 1 p.m.	
Jacksonville at Buffalo, 1 p.m.	
Cleveland at Atlanta, 1 p.m.	
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.	
Kansas City at Denver, 1 p.m.	
Monday's game	
Green Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.	
Sunday, Sept. 19	
Houston at Atlanta, 1 p.m.	
St. Louis at Atlanta, 1 p.m.	
Chicago at Green Bay, 1 p.m.	
Washington at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.	
Cleveland at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.	
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.	
St. Louis at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.	
Carolina at Kansas City, 1 p.m.	
San Francisco at New Orleans, 1 p.m.	
Cleveland at Dallas, 1 p.m.	
Buffalo at Oakland, 1 p.m.	
New England at Arizona, 1 p.m.	
Miami at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.	
Monday, Sept. 20	
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.	

Thursday	
Patriots 27, Colts 24	
Indianapolis	0
New England	17
First Quarter	0 10 0 7-24

NE—FG Vinatieri, 32, 100%.	
Second Quarter	
NE—Bledsoe 31 pass to Vinatieri (kick), 802.	
NE—Branch 15 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 346.	
NE—Harrison 3 pass from Manning (Vinatieri kick), 642.	
NE—FG Vinatieri 43, 100%.	
NE—Patten 2 pass to Brady (Vinatieri kick), 1048.	
NE—Graham 8 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 1223.	

Fourth Quarter	
NE—Stokes 7 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 1223.	
A—8:56	
First downs	28
Total Net Yards	420
Plays	42
Passing	244
Rushing	220
NE—Graham 8, 220	
NE—Clark Returns	49
Interceptions Ret.	2
Comp-Att-Int	16-29-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-12
Punts	2-41
Fumbles-Lost	2-2
Penalties-Yards	3-30
Time of Possession	31:41

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
Rushing—Indianapolis, James, 30-142.	
Receiving—Indianapolis, Manning, 14-218.	
Receiving—Indianapolis, Harrison, 7-142.	
Receiving—Indianapolis, Owens, 4-86.	
Receiving—Indianapolis, Watson, 2-36.	
Receiving—Indianapolis, Faulk, 1-15.	
Receiving—Indianapolis, Watson, 2-36.	
Receiving—Indianapolis, Watson, 2-36.	
Receiving—Indianapolis, Watson, 2-36.	
Receiving—Indianapolis, Watson, 2-36.	

Sweet: Brady improves to 5-0 as starter against Colts

SWEET, FROM BACK PAGE

"This year's a different year, different teams," Manning said. "You're supposed to score when you have chances down there."

Manning threw scoring passes to Marvin Harrison and Brandon Stokely. But he's 2-9 against the Patriots and 0-6 in Foxboro where he's thrown nine touchdowns and 16 interceptions. Brady is 5-0 against the Colts and 4-12 as an NFL starter, including the playoffs.

"There's lots of room for improvement because you just don't want to let it come down to such close plays at the end of the game," Brady said. "I'm looking from looking ahead to Oct. 10 when they play Miami in what could be a record 19th straight victory."

Miami is one of five NFL teams that share the mark.

"You can't win all those games in one week," Brady said.

The Colts' chance against Thursday ended when Vanderjag, whose 32-yarder had tied the game 3-3 early in the second quarter, sent his final attempt wide right.

"We had a lot of bad football going on before that kick," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "It was probably a fitting end to the game."

Vanderjag said, "I didn't choke," but took the blame for his first miss since a 44-year in the 14th game of the 2002 season.

"When you crash, it's a crash and burn," he said. "I blame it on me but myself."

Before the opening kickoff, the



New England Patriots QB Tom Brady threw his first interception at home since 2002, but went 26-for-38 for 335 yards and 3 TD passes.

NFL staged an hour-long entertainment show, which was telecast with a 10-second delay to give the league and ABC a chance to pull the plug on anything too racy, such as Janet Jackson's breast-baring during the Super Bowl halftime show.

Elton John headlined the show that included the unveiling of the Patriots' second Super Bowl banner.

"I think our show was a little more exciting than the premiere show," McGinest said.

Corey Dillon made his Patriots debut after seven seasons in Cincinnati and gained 86 yards on 15 carries.

"This is what I have been looking for my whole career," he said. "Playing with a bunch of guys who play 'til the end and know how to win."

The Patriots turned a 17-13 halftime deficit into a 27-17 lead when Brady threw touchdown passes of 25 yards to David Paten and 8 yards to Daniel Graham in the third quarter.

The Colts cut it to 27-24 on Manning's 7-yard pass to Stokely and Vanderjag's extra point with 11:05 left in the game. But they didn't score again even though a 22-yard pass interference penalty in the end zone against Asante Samuel resulted in a first down at the 1 — one play before James lost the fumble.

"We were so close," James said. "I shouldn't have tried to stick the ball out toward the goal line."

"It's the first game of the season. It was huge," McGinest said, but "we can win a lot of games playing like we did tonight."

Hentrich ready to fill in, kick for Tennessee

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The good news for the Tennessee Titans is that punter Craig Hentrich has kicked in near hurricane conditions.

It was Halloween night 1994 at Soldier Field, and Hentrich was punting for the Green Bay Packers against the Chicago Bears with wind swirling to 60 mph.

"It's a funny thing. I averaged 27 yards a punt and got a game ball," Hentrich recalled Thursday.

With the Titans' punter at Miami moved up 24 hours to Saturday because of approaching Hurricane Ivan, Hentrich might have to do much more than punt with Tennessee running out of time to find a new kicker before the opener.

The Titans brought in three kickers Thursday. Matt Bryant wasn't healthy enough to kick, but Tim Duncan and Aaron Kling had tryouts with Hentrich holding.

Tennessee lured Gary Anderson, the NFL's career scoring leader, out of a Colorado River last year to replace Joe Nedney, who was lost to a season-ending injury.

"I've not had a personal conversation with Gary," coach Jeff Fisher said. "However, Floyd [Reese] has talked to Gary's agent. That is all I have to report right now."

Hentrich said he talked with Anderson this week. The 45-year-old kicker is enjoying fishing these days. Don Mark, Anderson's agent, did not immediately return a telephone message left by The Associated Press.

Finding a new kicker may not be a top priority after the NFL decided Thursday to move up the opener to Sept. 12, and to squeeze in two days of work into Friday before flying to Miami late in the afternoon.

Titans, Dolphins trying to replace running backs

BY MARK LONG

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Tennessee Titans and Miami Dolphins took vastly different approaches to replacing departed running backs.

Of course, their situations were vastly different, too.

Both will test the changes in the season opener Saturday — a day earlier than expected because of approaching Hurricane Ivan.

Early predictions said Ivan could reach southern Florida as soon as Sunday, so the NFL decided to reschedule the game to avoid a postponement.

"We're bulletproof at this point," said Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt, whose team had its most turbulent offseason.

"There's nothing that anyone can do or say that will hurt us. Everyone knows what we've been through."

Williams ran for 3,225 yards in two years in Miami but quit football at 27, leaving the Dolphins with a huge hole to fill.

Travis Minor was chosen to start, but Wannstedt also planned to use Sammy Morris and Leonard Henry as part of a running back-by-committee approach. The trio combined for 59 carries and 152 yards during the preseason.

The Dolphins spent the last few days searching for help, and may have found some Wednesday when they acquired Lamar Gordon from the St. Louis Rams for a third-round draft pick in 2005.

The 6-foot-1, 228-pound Gordon was the Rams' third-string back behind Marshall Faulk and first-round pick Steven Jackson. But he certainly will move up the depth chart in Miami.

"You're not talking about a rookie who is going to be big-eyed," Wannstedt said. "He's coming in here with something to prove, and I love that."

Gordon missed most of the pre-

season after surgery to remove bone chips from his left ankle. The Rams featured him in the exhibition finale and he gained 77 yards on 22 carries and scored a touchdown.

He ran 136 times for 526 yards and two touchdowns the past two seasons, getting most of his playing time when Faulk was injured.

Gordon hopes to play in the opener. He was up late Wednesday night studying the playbook.

"If I learn the plays, I'll play," he said. "Physically, I'm ready to play. The wording is the same. Protection is the same. The reads are the same."

Tennessee didn't have to rush things with second-year running back Chris Brown. A third-round pick from Colorado, Brown spent last season playing behind Eddie George, the team's career rushing leader.

And when the Titans released George in July after eight seasons and more than 10,000 yards rushing, Brown stepped right into the starting role.

"At least in our situation we've

had the entire offseason to prepare for that," Titans right tackle Fred Miller said. "We knew maybe Eddie wouldn't be here, so we knew that we had to be ready."

"Ricky left a couple days before camp. That's very unexpected. If they'd had a little notice, maybe they could've traded for somebody."

Brown led the AFC this exhibition season with 240 yards rushing, showing speed the Titans haven't had in years. He broke a 43-yard record set by Green Bay in the exhibition finale.

The opener will be a good test for both teams' running games. The Titans led the NFL in rushing defense last season and the Dolphins ranked fifth. It also will be the first chance to measure how effectively each team replaced its star running back.

"There is a rivalry between the two teams," Morris said. "Our circumstance was a little more extreme, a little more shocking. But what it boils down to is you have to replace your star running back, and we're taking different approaches to doing that."

Defending champ Roddick ousted

Federer eliminates Agassi; no U.S. men in semis for first time since '84

BY BEN WALKER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andy Roddick kept pounding away, and yet the ball came flying back even faster. It wasn't the howling wind blowing his shots in a U-turn. It was a 6-foot-6 rocket launcher named Joachim Johansson.

Seeded 28th, Johansson's days in relative tennis obscurity are now numbered. He stood tall after Roddick rallied Thursday night and sent the defending U.S. Open champion home with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 upset in the quarterfinals.

Johansson sure didn't figure on being here. For a birthday present, the Swede had already given his dad a golf vacation this week in Scotland.

"I was actually supposed to be with him," Johansson said. "I have to change my plans."

Next up, Johansson takes on Lleyton Hewitt in a semifinal round that — because of Andre Agassi's loss to Roger Federer on a blustery day — does not include an American for the first time since 1986.

Johansson's win also means a change of scenery. His longtime girlfriend, Jaslyn, is Hewitt's sister.

"She can pick the boyfriend, but she can't pick the brother, so she'll go for me," Johansson joked.

As it stands, Jaslyn might suit up watching from a neutral site at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Hewitt topped Tommy Haas 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, and the Australian hopes to add to the Open title he won in 2001.

The top-seeded Federer is two wins from becoming the first man to win three Grand Slam titles in a year since 1988. After beating Agassi 6-3, 2-6, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, the Swiss star takes on Britain's Tim Henman, who defeated Dominik Hrbaty 6-1, 7-5, 6-2.

The women's semifinals are set for Friday. Lindsay Davenport vs. Svetlana Kuznetsova along with Jennifer Capriati vs. Elena Dementieva.

Playing in his first major quarterfinal, Johansson went to five sets for the first time in his career.

He slugged away with Roddick, firing serves at 141 mph, and ended the match by breaking him. Overall, Roddick converted only three of 15 break points. Johansson was 3-for-5.

"Yeah, that's the star," Roddick said. "You don't really want to analyze the match any further."

"Let's give some credit to him. The guy serves out of a tree. He serves huge."

Roddick didn't do badly, either. During the middle of the match, he won 29 straight points on his serve. Roddick finished with 34 aces to Johansson's 30.

Though he started the year ranked 112th, Johansson was familiar with Roddick. Now both 22, they played doubles together in the 2000 French Open junior event, and lost in the final.

When they met at the net to shake hands, Roddick twice tapped Johansson on the heart.

"I expected to see a lot of him out of juniors. He had that serve," Roddick said. "To kind of see him



Andy Roddick reacts to a shot against Joachim Johansson on Thursday. Johansson upset the defending champion 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

progress a little late is surprising to me because I think that much of him as a player."

Earlier in the day, it appeared the wind would be the big winner.

Because when the Federer-Agassi and Henman-Haas matches resumed after being suspended by rain the previous night, gusts up to 39 mph were making the ball sail in silly fashion.

"It was very difficult. It was one of the worst conditions I've played in," Federer said. "It's like playing warmup tennis and trying to keep the ball in play."

Serving was especially tough. "Such strong winds I couldn't even toss my ball right," Federer said. "I had to kind of toss it behind me so it would come forward and hope that it would land in the right spot. That's how extreme it is."

The wind blew so hard that it reverberated through the chair umpire's microphone. Time was held up as ballboys scrambled to retrieve loose balls, and the attendants holding umbrellas to shield Agassi and Federer from the sun during changeovers often needed help to stand still.

"This is as bad as it gets," Agas-

si said. "I think anything more than this, there would have to be some consideration into postponing matches. If chairs are starting to blow over, that's a problem."

The match resumed with Agassi serving in the first set of the fourth set, and it was an adventure at each end as both players' shirts flapped wildly in the breeze.

"Wind like this, everybody can stay home and flip coins," Agassi said.

In fact, almost every shot became a 50-50 proposition. One of Federer's lobs got caught in a gust and floated funny into the sideline seats, and even routine returns curved crazily.

"When you have wind so strong, it's not luck," Agassi said.

At 34, Agassi was left to ponder his future. Earlier in the tournament, he said he had no intention of retiring soon.

"If I'm out there forcing the best players in the world to play their best tennis, I'm going to keep going as long as I feel I have a realistic hope of putting together great matches and finding a way to win," he said. "My game plan is to play until I can't do it. I believe with that focus, I can still do that."

Open might be last for Navratilova

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Martina Navratilova's run at this U.S. Open ended Thursday night when she lost in mixed doubles semifinals.

Whether she'll return to Flushing Meadows or retire, that decision will come later.

"This might be my last U.S. Open or it might not," she said. "I'm not definite, one way or another."

At 47, Navratilova was hoping to add to her total of 58 Grand Slam championships. But she lost with Lisa Raymond in doubles in the quarterfinals, and was eliminated with Leander Paes 10-3 in a third-set super-tiebreaker by Alicia Molik and Todd Woodbridge.

"We outplayed them for the match, and we lost. It's pretty much what happened in our doubles as well. Pretty frustrating for me," she said.

Navratilova has won 167 titles in singles and 174 doubles.

Only one of those victories came this year, in a doubles tournament in Vienna. She lost at the Olympics in the quarterfinals.

"I'm playing better tennis than I did last year. The game is better, but the results are worse," she said.

Slam denied: Gael Monfils' bid for a junior Grand Slam ended Thursday in a third-round loss to Viktor Troicki of Serbia-Montenegro.

Troicki had never been past the round of 16 at an 18-and-under major.

Monfils, who is French, was trying to become the first player to complete the junior Grand Slam since Stefan Edberg in 1983.

Singh surges into contention with 28 on front nine

The Associated Press

OAKVILLE, Ont. — With an awesome display of shots that brought him to No. 1 in the world, Vijay Singh put himself in the record books Friday morning with a 28 on the front nine at Glen Abbey to surge into contention at the rain-delayed Canadian Open.

Golf roundup

Twelve shots better than his back nine, Singh finished with a 68 and was two shots behind Jose Sainz, who finished his 66 late Thursday.

Singh, among the field who failed to finish the first round because of a five-hour rain delay, hit his approach into the water and took bogey on the 18th to shoot 40 on his opening nine. He was in jeopardy of finishing the cut in his first event since replacing Tiger Woods at No. 1 in the world ranking.

All that changed on the front nine, played under gorgeous sunshine and little wind. Starting with a 3-wood on the second hole, Singh played the next seven holes in 7 under par. He made five birdies

inside 6 feet, and holed a 40-foot eagle putt on the fifth.

His 28 broke by one shot the Canadian Open record for nine holes, previously held by Mike McCullough in 1984 and Andy Bean in 1983, both times at the Abbey.

Singh had a 25-foot birdie putt on his final hole that would have tied the PGA Tour record of 27.

It was an even better performance by the last No. 1 player at Glen Abbey. Four years ago, Woods was close to the cut line in the second round when he finished birdie-eagle-birdie to shoot 65, and he went on to win.

Just as suddenly, Singh again looks like the man to beat.

He declined comment after his record-setting nine holes — "Not now," he said in a Royal Canadian Golf Association media office — and headed back out to start his second round.

Billy Andrade, who won a dramatic playoff in 1998 at the Abbey, also turned around his fortunes by playing his final 10 holes in 6 under par for a 67, leaving him one shot behind along with Craig Barlow.

The biggest star, former Masters champion Mike Weir of Canada, recovered from a double bogey on the eighth hole to shoot a 68, his lowest round at Glen Abbey and the second time he has shot in the 60s on the Jack Nicklaus design that has never been one of his favorites.

McDowell leads German Masters; three Ryder Cup players miss cut

PULHEIM, Germany — Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell, a former top-ranked college golfer at Alabama, shot an 8-under-par 64 Friday for a three-stroke lead at the German Masters, where three European Ryder Cup players missed the cut.

Colin Montgomerie, Ian Poulter and Paul McGinley made an early exit a week before their showdown with the Americans at Oakland Hills outside Detroit.

Todd Hamilton also missed the cut after a 77 in the American's first trip back to Europe since winning the British Open.

McDowell ran off three straight birdies to start his round on a day when shifting winds kept scores high. He was at 11-under 133 halfway through the tournament.

"I'm pretty sure I've never led going into the weekend," McDowell said. "I've never been this far ahead, either. But I won eight times in college, so I don't mind being out front."

Frenchman Romaine Jacquelin and Australians Nick O'Hern and Richard Green — all with 68s — shared second at 136.

McDowell, bidding for his second tour title, enjoyed calm winds in the afternoon to string together a round of seven birdies, an eagle and a bogey. "A 64 was the last thing on my mind when I started this morning — the wind was really gusting," he said. "But after my early birdies, when the wind dropped around my 10th or 11th hole, a low score was possible."

Montgomerie, troubled by the wind and his putting, shot a 76 to finish at 149 while playing partner McGinley was at 151 and Poulter at 155.

Montgomerie dismissed fears the Europeans could be slumped before the showcase event. Many on the team have said they are looking past the German Masters.

"No worries at all about us," Montgomerie said, adding of his own play, "Nothing wrong with my game. I just haven't scored at all."

Troy State surprises No. 19 Missouri

BY JOHN ZENOR

The Associated Press

TROY, Ala. — Missouri was thinking bloutout, Troy looked helpless and Brad Smith was seemingly unstoppable.

Then, everything flip-flopped and Troy upset the 19th-ranked Tigers 24-14 on Thursday night with gadgets, luck and guts.

Receiver Jason Samples threw a touchdown pass and caught another, and offensive lineman Junior Louissaint scored on a 63-yard fumble recovery for the Trojans.

Missouri (1-1) barely seemed to exert itself in building a 14-0 lead in the first eight minutes but everything was a strain after that against the resilient Trojans (2-0).

"We thought we could, we thought we could, we thought we could," Troy coach Larry Blakeney said. "And finally we did."

His fourth-year Division I-A program had never hosted a BCS conference team and was 0-6 against Big 12 teams. No wonder the fans stormed the field and pulled down a goal post as Missouri players slumped to the locker room.

"To me, this is the biggest win we've ever had," Blakeney said.

Smith passed for 224 yards and ran 15 times for 36 yards, but threw two interceptions in the second half. He got few big plays against a speedy Troy defense and his Heisman hopes were dealt a blow.

"I don't know if I've ever been involved in a game like this before," Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said. "We moved the ball very well in the first quarter. Did we lose focus? I don't know. If I knew, I would have corrected it immediately. We got stifled the



BIRMINGHAM NEWS/AP

Troy State offensive lineman Junior Louissaint leaves Missouri defenders behind as he recovers a fumble and runs 63 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter.

rest of the game."

And Troy's Aaron Leak, who was only 7-for-20 with three interceptions, made the pass he needed. He rolled left and hit a leaping Samples in the end zone four minutes into the fourth quarter. Leak was down on the turf for a minute after taking a hard hit on the play, then got up and waved his arms to the crowd, the largest in school history at 26,574.

Smith then drove the Tigers to Troy's 30, but couldn't get them further before they turned it over on downs.

Troy milked the clock below six minutes

and punter Thomas Olmsted buried the Tigers inside the 5 for the second straight time. Arthur Adams effectively ended Missouri's hopes with an interception.

"It was never a doubt with us that we could play with them and eventually beat them," said Bernard Davis, who blocked a punt.

The Trojans, coming off a road victory at Marshall, used trickery and luck to take a stunning 17-14 halftime lead after failing to get a first down in the first 20 minutes.

With Troy down two touchdowns, Leak threw a lateral to Samples, who floated a

Troy 24, No. 19 Missouri 14

Missouri	14	0	0	0	14
Troy	0	17	0	7	24
First Quarter					
Miss—Nash 6 run (Tantarelli kick), 11:09					
MS—Seasay 13 pass from Smith (Tantarelli kick), 7:28					
Second Quarter					
Troy—Richardson 27 pass from Samples (Whibbs kick), 8:33					
Troy—Louissaint 63 fumble recovery (Whibbs kick), 4:23					
Troy—FG Whibbs 43, 1:01					
Third Quarter					
Troy—Samples 33 pass from Leak (Whibbs kick), 11:11					
Fourth Quarter					
MS—Troy					
MS					
First downs	36	112	41	172	
Rushes-yards	29	121	121		
Passing	25	46	2	8	21
Comp-Att-Int	25	46	2	8	21
Return Yards	8	39	6	7	45
Punts-Avg.	8	39	6	7	45
Fumbles-Lost	3	0	3	0	3
Penalties-Yards	6	35	5	38	
Time of Possession	33:29	26:31			

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Missouri: Nash 15-69, Smith 15-36, Woods 7-7, Troy, Betterson 21-33, Richardson 10-28, Leak 10-minus 12, Louissaint 6-63.	
Passing—Missouri: Smith 25-46-2-24, Troy, Leak 7-23-0-34, Samples 1-4-0-27.	
Receiving—Missouri: Olmstead 6-64, Seasay 5-34, Nash 5-22, Coffey 4-35, Rucker 3-44, Bowersu 3-25, Troy, Richardson 2-44, Cray 2-18, Samples 1-33, Hampton 1-14, Betterson 1-7, Dawkins 1-5.	

pass to wide-open tailback Jermaine Richardson in the end zone for a 27-yard score midway through the second quarter.

After Missouri was forced to punt, the 277-pound Louissaint came up with the most exciting play of the game, catching teammate DeWhitt Betterson's fumble and rambling 63 yards into the end zone.

"I looked up and saw Junior running stride for stride and outrunning everybody," said Betterson. "That's a long way for a lineman to run."

Army's Ross excited about coaching again

BY MARK JOHNSON

The Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Retiree-ment hasn't changed Bobby Ross much.

He's waiting for the same pre-game goose bumps he always felt in his years of coaching college and pro football. He's reverted to his old coaching habits and is relishing the time spent with his new players, starting at 5:45 a.m. and often putting in 16- or 17-hour days.

"I'm approaching things pretty much the same," Ross said. "My wife said, 'You have to learn to pace yourself.' And I'm not doing that. I'm not that smart. I need to work hard and I try to be real detail-conscious."

Ross was lured out of retirement last December to try to revive an Army team that set an NCAA record for futility last year in losing all of its 13 games. The academy fired Todd Berry in October with the team at 5-5 in its four seasons. John Mumford acted as interim coach, going 0-7 after replacing Berry.

Ross hasn't coached since 2000, when he quit the Detroit Lions after nine games. His Chargers lost their only Super Bowl appearance, 49-26 to the San Francisco 49ers. His NFL record was 7-68.

The 67-year-old spent 15 years as a college coach, including stints with The Citadel (1973-77), Maryland (1982-86) and Georgia Tech (1987-91). His national champion Georgia Tech team went 11-0-1 in 1990, sharing the title with Colorado. His college record was 94-76-2.

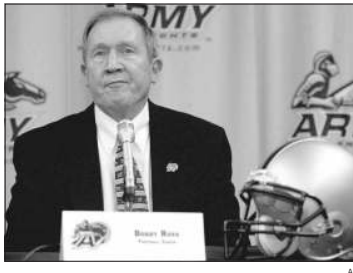
Ross says he has missed the competition and camaraderie of football, as well as the chance to help young players develop, on and off the field.

"I'm enjoying it here and I'm enjoying these players," he said. "The wild-eyed excitement they show is fun to me. And they really do care. They feel like they have something to prove. That's a real strong motivation for me."

Ross has replaced Berry's relaxed manner with a hard-nosed approach that demands players correct mistakes immediately.

"The biggest difference is in discipline, fifth-year senior guard Adam Wojcik said. "Coach Ross brings intensity to the field. If you make a mistake, it's corrected right away on the field instead of waiting until after you watch the film. It's going to be done right, right now."

While much is the same for Ross, he's also taking on some new challenges.



Bobby Ross, who coached Georgia Tech to a national championship in 1990, will try to turn around Army, which was winless last season.

Students at the academy regularly take 18 to 21 credits a semester. Many football players at other colleges take the NCAA minimum of 12 hours, Ross said. And West Point's military obligations demand every student get out of bed at 5 a.m.

"Those factors mean Ross' cadets are students first, football players second."

"These are not things I didn't expect," Ross said. "We cannot and will not use that as an excuse."

Ross is also facing a league he's unfamiliar with, though he knows it houses some strong squads.

They include his first opponent — Louisville, picked as one of the favorites to win Conference USA.

In their season opener last weekend, the Cardinals dominated Kentucky 28-0.

Louisville harassed Kentucky quarterback Shane Bow, shut down the Wildcats' running game and returned an interception for a touchdown in their first shutout in four years. The Cardinals held the Wildcats to 68 rushing yards and dominated Kentucky's inexperienced offensive line.

Despite his team's apparent edge over Army on paper, Louisville coach Bobby Petrino said he

still has tremendous respect for Ross and what he's accomplished.

During a league conference call, Petrino was asked what he'd be thinking when he sees Ross on the other side of the field.

"I said, 'I'm not going to look across because I might get intimidated,' Petrino said. 'He's a guy I used to study when he was at Georgia Tech and San Diego.'"

Ross's arrival at West Point has been accompanied by high expectations among alumni and fans hungry for a return to the academy's glory days. And the coach's experience immediately commanded respect among players.

Joe Steffy, who played at West Point in the mid 1940s and has been to every Army home football game since 1952, says he's never before seen the kind of excitement he's seen among fans and alumni heading into this season.

"Ross comes to us unlike any other coach since Black," Steffy said, referring to Earl "Red" Black, who coached Army to national championships in 1944 and 1945. "He's a proven winner and a proven football coach. Nothing matches this year. Everyone is very enthusiastic."

Ross isn't making predictions. His goal is to have a competitive team that has a chance to win going into the fourth quarter of every game.

"I don't worry about what legacy I may have," he said.

"That's immaterial to me. I just care about coaching. Legacies and past records mean nothing."

STARS AND STRIPES

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Golden dome in need of some polish

Dynasties like Notre Dame have to reinvent themselves at some point or disappear.

There's no getting around it. What made the Fighting Irish special once doesn't necessarily apply today.

Jim Little



The game changes, the players change, and staying near the top means the way you recruit has to change, too.

So let's be clear up front: We're not talking about lowering

demetic standards at Notre Dame; except, maybe, as they apply to the smirking, scheming alumni whose Web site — FireTyWillingham.com — has been up and running for almost a year, listing the 55,000 or so others who stopped by since then, they aren't smart enough to know Willing-

ham is not the just best man for the job; he might be the only one who can save them from themselves.

There's going to be another overwrought drama when Michigan visits South Bend this weekend. It's what happens when the only team in college football with a few million unpaid consultants and its own network TV deal stumbles against Brigham Young in the first game of a schedule filled with deeper, more disabling potholes.

There was a time when Michigan-Notre Dame generated more than enough entertainment between the white lines to worry about what was taking place outside them. But not anymore. Notre Dame hasn't held up its part of most bargains for going on a dozen seasons. Based on the evidence so far, this one won't be any different.

The Fighting Irish still own more national titles than anyone, but the last of the eight was brought home in 1988. They haven't seriously contended for

one since 1993. They still boast the Heisman Trophy winners more than anyone, too, but the last was Tim Brown in 1987.

Willingham understood when he signed on two seasons ago that it's his responsibility to change all that, just as he understood it doesn't happen in the course of a single game — or a single season, for that matter. Forget the "Gipper" and all those other stories you read in Fighting Irish football lore.

Even if we pretend it was possible back then, waking up the echoes is a lot tougher trick now. Especially if you want to do it right.

Willingham wasn't the first choice of the higher-ups in South Bend. That was George O'Leary, who got caught massaging his résumé and has since moved on to Central Florida. But you know what they say about "the luck of the Irish"? That's what happened when the job fell to Willingham.

He is black, neither Irish nor Catholic, but Willingham embraced Notre Dame's tradition as though he were born to it, instead

of a kid who was raised a Baptist in North Carolina and snatched the Notre church on fall Sunday mornings to catch the Fighting Irish highlights. He hummed the fight song, read the books about Knute Rockne, walked past the trophies and statues on his way to the football office every day and understood that the job required equal parts persuasion and inspiration, but, above all, winning.

Notre Dame hasn't done much of that on Willingham's watch. The miracles that led to an 8-0 start with the players his predecessor, Bob Davie, left behind have all dried up. The Irish have lost of their last 15, some big games by even bigger scores. Worse still, Willingham's first stab at a recruiting class left everybody unimpressed. The West Coast offense that was supposed to be his entree to the living rooms of all those skilled passers and catchers who left Notre Dame off their recruiting lists appears to look less impressive still. Small wonder that some people are already panicking.

But that's how Notre Dame got caught between a rock and the Golden Dome in the first place. It jetted into Lou Holtz before his time was up and gambled on a successor who wasn't ready. But Davie and even Gerry Faust — talk about not being ready — got five seasons and Willingham isn't even two weeks into his third.

And unlike a few of the above, he hasn't gripped about the pressures, the schedule or competing against players who couldn't get into Notre Dame. He hasn't complained about anything, in fact, other than meeting his own expectations.

All he deserves is a little more time. "We're trying to find players that are a fit for Notre Dame, and we think we've found some players that do that," Willingham said. "I like where we're at."

The temptation, of course, is to change something fast, veer off in a different direction. Anybody counting on Willingham to do that has no idea about the man.

Jim Little is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlittle@aol.com.

Congress approves tougher agent law

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress has moved to impose tougher penalties on unethical sports agents who lure student athletes into contracts that compromise their amateur standing and damage the reputations of their schools.

The legislation that passed by voice vote in the Senate late Thursday and now goes to the president for his signature was promoted by Rep. Tom Osborne, R-Neb., the former Nebraska football coach.

As a former coach, I witnessed time and again sports agents illegally using cash and gifts to recruit student-athletes," Osborne said in a statement Friday. "This unethical behavior on behalf of the sports agents threatens the athletes' eligibility and harms the integrity of college sports."

The NCAA has rules, and some states have standards, for sports agents, but Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., principal author of the bill, said that hasn't stopped some unscrupulous agents from "aggressively pursuing these kids anyway, possibly ruining a chance to compete on the college level and get a degree."

The legislation would bar agents from recruiting athletes by giving false or misleading information or providing anything of value to the athlete or his family before entering into a contract. The agent must also disclose in writing that the athlete may lose NCAA eligibility after signing an agency contract and requires the athlete and the agent to notify the school's athletic director that the athlete has signed a contract so the school does not play a ineligible athlete in a game.

Violators would face civil actions by the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general. Fines of up to \$1,000 a day could be levied for each offense.

Canada's Brodeur hurt

TORONTO — Martin Brodeur has a sore wrist that will not be decided until gametime if Canada's goaltender can face the Czech Republic in the World Cup of Hockey semifinal.

New Jersey Devils star practiced Friday but left midway through the workout as a precaution. Brodeur's glove hand was bandaged Thursday when he left the arena. An MRI exam was negative.

"Marty has a jammed wrist but it's improving," coach Pat Quinn said. "If it keeps improving like it has today, then he should be fine. But it'll be a gametime decision."

If Brodeur is not ready Saturday, Florida's Roberto Luongo would most likely start, with Montreal's Jose Theodore the backup.

Jones finished for 2004

BERLIN — Marion Jones pulled out of Sunday's Golden League meet in Seoul as a backup, and organizers said she won't compete again this year.

Also out is Liu Xiang, the Olympic 110-meter hurdles champion and a holder of the world record. Organizers said he didn't receive permission from his federation, and also will miss the Sept. 18-19 IAAF World Finals in Monte Carlo.

Jones was to have competed in the long jump. She won five medals in the 2002 Sydney Games but failed to win a medal in her two events in Athens, the long jump and 400-meter relay.

DeBerry-re-ups for five

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force football coach Fisher DeBerry agreed to a five-year contract extension on Thursday.

DeBerry, in his 21st season at Air Force, has a 156-89 career record and has been at the academy longer than any other coach.

"Fisher is one of the nation's best coaches and we have now secured the future of our football for the next five years," athletic director Hans Mueh said in a statement.

DeBerry, 66, led the Falcons to a 12-1 record and a top-five ranking in 1985, when he was voted national coach of the year. Seventeen of his teams have

posted winning records and 12 have played in bowl games.

"I'm very flattered and humbled to be offered an extension to my contract," DeBerry said in a statement. "This speaks well to the job our coaches and players have done."

The contract extension comes as running back Matthew Ward, who has been suspended from the team, faces a court-martial for wrongful use and possession of the steroid methandrostenolone. He pleaded innocent earlier this year.

Linebacker Overton Spencer was acquitted on a charge of wrongful use of the same type of steroid on Sept. 1. He is testing but he did not know the steroid was illegal. He was reinstated to the team Monday.

NHL labor talks break off

NEW YORK — After failing to make any progress toward a new collective bargaining agreement, the NHL owners and players agreed on one point: A lockout seems inevitable.

The players' association made its first proposal to the owners in nearly a year Thursday, but it was rejected. To assure that a lockout will be imposed Sept. 15 when the current deal expires. No new talks were scheduled.

Ted Sackin, the NHLPA's senior director, said commissioner Gary Bettman concluded the meeting Thursday by saying, "We weren't even talking the same language."

The NHLPA presented a modified plan during the negotiating session Thursday that it first floated last summer and formally offered on Oct. 1, 2003. It included a luxury-tax system, a change in the entry-level structure, a plan for revenue sharing, and a 5 percent draft pick on current player contracts.

The players claim that Bettman will not agree to a deal that doesn't include a salary cap. The players insist they'll never accept such a cap.

Warriors waive Laetner

OAKLAND, Calif. — Christian Laetner was waived by the Golden State Warriors on Thursday, less than a month after he was acquired in an eight-player trade with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Laetner was traded to Dallas after averaging 5.9 points, 2.8 rebounds and 1.9 assists in 48 games with Washington last year. Formerly a member of the original Olympic Dream Team in 1992, he averaged 13.3 points, 6.9 rebounds and 2.7 assists in a career with Miami, Washington, Atlanta, Detroit, Dallas and Washington.

Braves' SS Furcal arrested after arrest

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Atlanta Braves shortstop Rafael Furcal was arrested early Friday on charges of driving under the influence, speeding and reckless driving, police said. It is the player's second DUI arrest.

Furcal was booked into the Atlanta city jail following his arrest on Interstate 85 and remained in jail pending bond of \$3,200, Furcal's agent said.

It wasn't immediately clear if he took a blood-alcohol test.

Cobb County officials said Furcal's arrest violated terms of his 12-month probation from a June 2000 drunk driving conviction. Department of Corrections spokeswoman Gayle Middlebrook said, The probation sentence would have expired Oct. 29.

Strike averted in Japan

TOKYO — The first strike in the history of Japanese pro baseball was averted Friday when owners and players reached a last-minute deal that will allow teams to continue play through the weekend.

The players had said three conditions, including a one-year freeze on the merger of the Kintetsu Buffaloes and the Orix Blue-Waves, were a precondition to avoid a weekend walkout. The players also wanted assurances that there would be no further mergers and that the fees required for setting up a franchise to enter Japanese professional baseball would be reduced.

Sox fire doused

Streaking Boston cooled by rookies Madritsch, Lopez

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Bobby Madritsch was full of confidence, even against the hot Boston Red Sox.

"I know that every time I go out there, I'm going to give our team a chance to win," Seattle's rookie left-hander said. "That's the biggest thing. To go out there with confidence, and not looking at the names on people's backs and what they did up to now."

Madritsch pitched eight shutout innings and the Mariners ended a seven-game losing streak Thursday night with a 7-1 victory over Boston, dropping the Red Sox 3½ games behind the first-place New York Yankees in the AL East. The Yankees swept a doubleheader from Tampa Bay earlier in the day.

Another rookie, Jose Lopez, hit a two-run homer off Boston starter Tim Lincecum and also had two doubles.

Madritsch (4-2) allowed five hits and three walks and struck out five. He has a 3.15 ERA in 11 games this season, the best among Seattle starters.

The Red Sox, who had won four in a row, 14 of 15 and 20 of 22, committed two errors that accounted for five unearned runs. A dropped fly ball by left fielder Manny Ramirez led to four unearned runs in the fifth.

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki singled



off Wakefield's glove in the first inning to break his AL record for singles in a season. Suzuki, who extended his hitting streak to 14 games, had 192 as a rookie in 2001. He also singled in the eighth and has 194 this season.

Suzuki, who was 2-for-4, has 229 hits as he pursues the major league record of 257 by George Sisler of the St. Louis Browns in 1920. Suzuki, who leads the majors with a .378 batting average, has 23 games left.

Lopez, a 20-year-old shortstop called up from Tacoma of the Pacific Coast League on July 31, highlighted Seattle's four-run fifth inning with his fourth major league homer in his 36th game with the Mariners.

Wakefield (11-9) went 4½ innings and gave up seven runs — two earned — on seven hits, three walks and two hit batters.

Yankees 9-10, Devil Rays 1-5: Gary Sheffield and Tony Clark each drove in two runs during the seventh-run second to help the Yankees complete a sweep.

John Flaherty and Derek Jeter homered for the Yankees, who outlasted the Devil Rays 26-18 in the doubleheader. Jeter was 5-for-9 with a homer and three RBIs in the two games. The Yankees won all four games in the rain-shortened series and have won five in a row overall.

Mike Mussina (10-9) was the winner in the opener, and Tanyon Sturtze (6-2) got the victory in the second game in relief of Brad Halcyon.

Royals 26-0, Tigers 5-8: After visiting Kansas City set a team record for runs in the opener, Jeremy Bonderman turned the tables in the nightcap, allowing six hits in eight innings.



Seattle's Jose Lopez is congratulated at left by Dan Wilson after hitting a home run in the fifth inning of the Mariners' 7-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Thursday night. At right, Lopez falls victim to one of baseball's oldest gags, as his shoelaces are set afire in the dugout.

Bonderman (9-11) struck out nine and allowed only one Kansas City runner to get into scoring position. Darrell May (9-17) lost his fifth straight, giving up eight runs — three earned — and 10 hits in 7½ innings.

In the opener, the Royals scored the most runs in a game since Texas beat Baltimore 26-7 in 1996. Joe Randa was 6-for-7 and tied a major league record with six runs, becoming the first AL player with six hits and six runs in a nine-inning game.

The Royals had 26 hits, with Angel Berroa going 4-for-5 with a home run, a triple and five RBIs, and Dee Brown and Alberto Castillo combining for seven hits and seven RBIs.

The Royals' previous record for runs was 23, against Minnesota in 1974. The major league mark for a nine-inning game is 29 by the Boston Red Sox against the

St. Louis Browns in 1950, and the Chicago White Sox against the Kansas City Athletics in 1955.

Blue Jays 5, Angels 4: Carlos Delgado capped a five-run third with a two-run homer, helping drop host Anaheim two games behind first-place Oakland in the AL West.

Vladimir Guerrero and Adam Kennedy homered for the Angels.

Ted Lilly (10-10) allowed four runs and seven hits in 7½ innings, barely preserving a five-run lead.

White Sox 7, Rangers 3: Mark Buehrle pitched a three-hit, and Paul Konerko and Joe Crede homered for visiting Chicago.

Buehrle struck out six and walked two in his 13th career complete game. He retired 15 of his final 16 batters.

Texas dropped six games behind AL West-leading Oakland with its ninth loss in 11 games.

Phil's cling to playoff hopes after thumping Braves

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Philadelphia Phillies are clinging to slim playoff hopes even if they're having trouble hanging onto fly balls.

Center fielder Jason Michaels accidentally knocked Charles Thomas' drive over the fence for a bizarre home run, but Philadelphia recovered to beat the Atlanta Braves 9-4 on Thursday night. "It was like jai alai," said Phillies manager Larry Bowa, who had never seen anything like it during all his years in baseball. "He had it on his hand and flipped it out."

The Phillies got a tiebreaking, two-run double from Jim Thome and won the last three of four games of Turner's lead as 5½ games behind the NL wild-card lead, although there are five teams ahead of them.

With the Braves trailing 4-3, Thome led off the bottom of the ninth with a deep drive to center. Michaels did well just getting to the ball,



reaching up for it at the edge of the warning track. The ball deflected off his glove and headed toward the ground.

Michaels swatted at it, still trying to make the catch. Instead, he knocked it into the first row of seats.

"I was at a loss for words," the embarrassed Michaels said. "I was like, 'You've got to be kidding me.' I almost didn't think it was real."

After an intentional walk to Bobby Abreu in the seventh, Thome hit a two-run double off Ramon Colon (1-1) for a 6-4 lead.

"We'd be striking him out on a regular basis the whole series," Braves manager Bobby Cox said, defending the decision.

Pat Burrell homered in the eighth and doubled in a run in the ninth to put the game out of reach.

"One thing you've got to ad-

mire about Thome," Bowa said. "No matter if he's 0-for-20 or 18-for-20, he wants to be in that spot. You can't teach that. All good hitters are like that."

Philadelphia starter Cory Lidle had a 22-inning scoreless streak until Chipper Jones hit a three-run homer in the third. Lidle went five innings, giving up four runs, but the bullpen picked him up.

Ryan Madson (9-2), Rhael Cormier, Felix Rodriguez and Geoff Geary held the Braves scoreless the rest of the way. Phillies relievers pitched 16 scoreless innings during the series.

Pirates 3-2, Astros 1-9: Jeff Bagwell, Brad Ausmus and Lance Berkman drove in two runs apiece in the nightcap to help visiting Houston gain a doubleheader split and win for the 13th time in 14 games.

In the first game, Oliver Perez (10-8) ended Houston's 12-game winning streak by striking out a career-high 14 in eight dominant

innings. He joined Bob Veale as the only Pirates pitchers with 200 strikeouts in a season.

The Astros bounced back in Game 2 for their 21st victory in 25 games and are tied with San Francisco for the NL wild-card lead.

Rockies 9, Padres 7: Todd Helton had three RBIs and Aaron Miles hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the seventh for host Colorado.

Ramon Hernandez had three RBIs and Khalil Greene hit his 12th homer for San Diego, which dropped 2½ games behind the wild-card lead. The Padres are 1-4 against the Rockies the past week and have lost seven of 10 overall.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 3: Steve Finley homered twice and Jose Lima (12-5) earned his first victory in a month.

Finley snapped a 2-2 tie in the fifth with a solo homer off Edgar Gonzalez (0-9), then hit a two-run

shot in the sixth to help the host Dodgers extend their NL West lead to five games over idle San Francisco. Eric Gagne earned his 38th save in 40 opportunities. The Diamondbacks, losers of seven straight, finished 3-16 against the Dodgers this season.

Mets 4, Marlins 0: Kris Benson (11-11) pitched five-hit ball into the seventh, Eric Liried homered off Ismael Valdez (12-8) and New York ended three streaks by beating host Florida.

The Mets snapped an 11-game losing skid while stopping the Marlins' franchise record-tying nine-game winning streak. New York also ended a run of 10 consecutive losses to Florida.

Brewers 7, Reds 2: Wades Helms hit a grand slam. Brady Clark went 4-for-4 against his former team and Doug Davis (11-10) tied his career high for victories with his first in seven starts. Wily Mo Pena homered for the Reds, who have lost four straight and nine of 10.

SPORTS



Johansson eliminates Roddick, leaving no U.S. men in semifinals for first time in 20 years, Page 27

Sweet 16 for Pats

Defense makes big stops in 4th as New England extends streak

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Opening night in the NFL had fireworks before the game, plenty of offense during it and another slim victory by the New England Patriots.

They beat the Indianapolis Colts 27-24 Thursday night in their first game since their 32-29 victory over Carolina for their second Super Bowl title in three years.

Their winning streak, including playoffs, reached 16 games, two shy of the NFL record, after Mike Vanderjagt's successful field-goal streak ended at 42 when he missed a 48-yarder with 19 seconds left.

"No one cares about last year," Patriots linebacker Tedy Bruschi said. "The question is, 'can you do it again?'"

"Vanderjagt didn't, but Willie McGinest did."

One play before Vanderjagt's miss, the Patriots linebacker sacked Peyton Manning for a 13-yard loss, shoving the Colts out of easy field-goal range. In a 38-34 victory at Indianapolis last season, McGinest stopped Edgerin James on fourth-and-one with 14 seconds left.

"I was going to swipe at the ball and try to get the fumble out," against Manning, McGinest said, "but I figured he'd dropped back far enough" to make the field-goal attempt difficult.

Two-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady completed 26 of 38 passes for 355 yards and three touchdowns, but threw his first interception at home since 2002.

In the rematch of last season's 24-14 Patriots victory in the AFC championship game, Indianapolis gained 446 yards, more than the Patriots gave up in any game last season.

James rushed for 142 yards, but the Colts turned the ball over twice at the Patriots' 1-yard line on Bruschi's interception on their first series and James' fumble on their next to last possession.

The 1-yard line proved to be a tough obstacle for the Colts again.

SEE SWEET ON PAGE 26



New England Patriots LB Willie McGinest (55) wraps up Indianapolis Colts QB Peyton Manning for a sack late in the fourth quarter at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass., on Thursday. The Colts' Mike Vanderjagt missed a 48-yard field goal attempt on the next play, and the Patriots went on to a 27-24 victory.



Rookie Madritsch, Mariners cool off red-hot Red Sox

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Phillies beat Braves, stay alive in crowded chase for NL wild card

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Coming off upset of Marshall, Troy State stuns No. 19 Missouri

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Kenseth doesn't come up short in IROC race Page 24